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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE law courts are not sitting; there are no Parliamentary debates to report; the fighting in Germany and Italy is at an end, and the principal feature in each day's newspaper is the account of the proceedings before the Election Commissions sitting at Great Yarmouth, Lancaster, Totnes, and Reigate. The revelations made at these inquests—inquests on the departed morality of electors they may be considered—are really of the most shocking character. "Revelations" is not perhaps the exact word we should use, for it is a matter of notoriety that "corrupt practices" are carried on at nearly all elections, more especially at borough elections. But at every fresh sitting of an Election Commission the disclosures that are made excite something like surprise; and it is at least satisfactory to think that, though votes are constantly bought and sold, we have not yet universally accustomed ourselves to look with equanimity upon this disgraceful traffic.

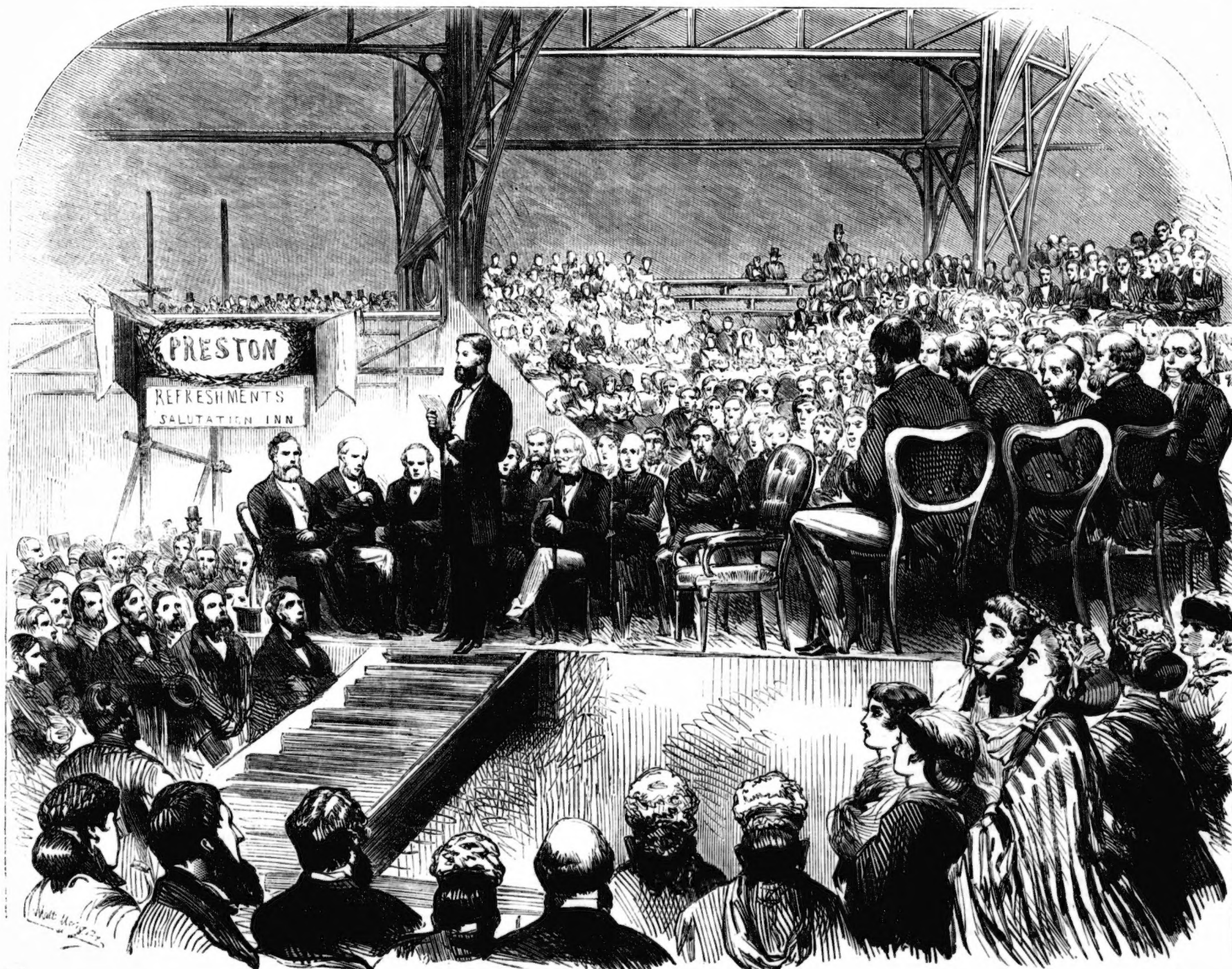
Whatever else a reformed Parliament may take in hand, it will have to give its best attention to two most crying evils—the general inefficiency of our administrative system and the wholesale practice of bribery at elections. Who can say that there is no connection between the two? What is more natural than that incompetent officials should be tolerated by a Parliament consisting in a great measure of men who have

bought their seats as a speculative contractor buys the right of taking toll at a turnpike? It is astonishing what dishonourable things a man will do that he may enjoy the honour of writing "M.P." after his name; and a great number of members of Parliament are really quite contented to bear the title, and do not trouble themselves in the least about the duties that the position should carry with it. According to the original and rational idea of representation, the representative should be chosen for his superior wisdom, or power, or courage, or ability, or for all these qualifications combined. As it is, in an alarmingly large number of cases, he is not even chosen on account of his wealth, which would be bad enough in itself. He is not chosen at all. He buys himself in. It is all a matter of pecuniary calculation. "The extent of bribery on one side," deposed an auctioneer and "valuer," before the Commission sitting at Totnes, "was dependent on the bribery on the other side. If they spent £6000 we could win with £4000." When the popular candidate at this highly purchasable borough was told that £4000 would be required, he replied, like a man, that he was prepared with £5000.

No wonder, that the purchase system in the Army is tolerated when the purchase system forms the very basis of our Parliamentary (so-called) representation. Without a good

supply of money no man (except now and then, by a sort of fluke) can hope to get into Parliament as representative of an English county or borough; and even then it seems as natural to him that an officer should buy his senatorial honours, as that he himself should have bought his senatorial honours. In Ireland the influence of the priests counts for a good deal. In Scotland elections have always been conducted with more purity than in England—owing, partly, as we have often pointed out, to the excellent plan of grouping small boroughs together, so that to bribe the voters systematically would be as difficult and as expensive as to bribe the voters throughout a county; and partly, it is to be hoped, to reasons of a higher character. But in England the money influence at elections can scarcely be over-estimated. It is so great that, considered in connection with it, the personal influence of men of position and family, however objectionable in itself, becomes positively beneficial—as a poisonous drug may be beneficial when administered as a corrective or as an antidote.

If we could reform the morals of the nation, Parliament and our administrative system would reform themselves. In the meanwhile, it would not be a bad plan to punish those who deliberately set about demoralising voters at elections, or, what comes to nearly the same thing, encouraging



OPENING OF THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN THE AGRICULTURAL HALL.

demoralisation where it already exists. At present it is held disgraceful among men of honour to take a bribe; but it is not held to be a disgrace at all to give one. The notion of dishonour seems generally to be associated with weakness. Thus it is not dishonourable to beat a man, but it is dishonourable to accept a beating. It is, comparatively speaking, not dishonourable to betray a woman—indeed, during the last century, to judge by its literature, it was considered rather creditable than otherwise to do so—but a woman has lost all honour when she has suffered herself to be betrayed. So, in regard to bribery at elections, it is still considered a low thing to take a bribe; but no one, apart from the inconvenience and expense of the thing, minds it being proved that he has given one. There will be no end to bribery at elections until a general feeling prevails that some portion of the disgrace that attaches to the bribe-taker belongs to the bribe-giver—who is in his way a seducer, and, if not a destroyer of innocence, at least a promoter of vice. To reform the morals of a nation, however, is a long and difficult—sometimes an impossible—process. All that legislation can do to check the evil of bribery is to punish equally those who take bribes and those who give them. If duelling in England was not actually put down by the law—for public opinion had already prepared the way for that result—the practice was greatly discouraged by the understanding that, in future, all duellists would be treated as felons, while their seconds and all connected with them in the commission of the offence would be prosecuted as accomplices. After that if an intending duellist did not care for the consequences he might bring upon himself, he could not in decency ask a friend to stand by him and run the risk of being transported for life. So in the matter of bribery, bribery must certainly come to an end when it is clearly understood that any man convicted of administering or offering a bribe will be punished as for a misdemeanour.

From abroad we have no news, with the exception of the formal notification that peace between Prussia and Hesse, as well as between Prussia and Austria and between Austria and Italy, has been proclaimed. Venetia, too, has formally been made over by the Emperor of the French to Victor Emmanuel, under the condition that its annexation to the Italian kingdom shall be confirmed by the wishes of the inhabitants, to be expressed through universal suffrage. As to the result of this appeal to the Venetian population there can be no doubt, and Venetia may now be looked upon as forming one with Italy. Some sanguine persons go so far as to believe that the difficult and apparently insoluble "Roman question" is about to be disposed of; while, on the other hand, the retirement of M. Drouyn de Lhuys from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs is looked upon by many journals as a sign that the celebrated "September convention" made under his auspices has been abandoned, and that, instead of being left to take care of himself after the present month, the Holy Father will continue to be upheld at Rome by the arms of France.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

SOON after the last great International Exhibition in Hyde Park, the idea of having local exhibitions of the handicraft and inventions of working men was adopted in Lambeth. Similar displays followed in other parts of the metropolis, one of the largest and most successful of them being that which was held in the Agricultural Hall in 1864. Applications were made to the persons who had organised it to hold another "North London Exhibition," in 1865. It was, however, deemed advisable to postpone action, with the view of accomplishing something on a larger scale than had been attempted in 1864. The Agricultural Hall Company offered, on favourable terms, to place the entire building at the disposal of the council; and, a sum of £500 having been subscribed towards a guarantee fund, it was resolved to hold a Metropolitan and Provincial Working Classes' Exhibition in the autumn of the present year. It was further determined that the scheme should not be merely an imitation of previous efforts, but "a Workman's Festival," combining various elements of an industrial and recreative character. The management of the undertaking was confided to five working men—Mr. J. Watts, railway official; Mr. C. Alderton, turner; Mr. J. F. Wilson, printer; Mr. J. Haynes, carpenter; and Mr. G. Davey, decorator. They composed "the executive council;" by their applications for space were considered and decided upon during such hours as they could devote to those matters after their ordinary avocations of the day; and on Monday they had carried out the work of classification and arrangement so far as to permit of the exhibition being formally opened. There are nearly 1600 exhibitors; but, though the co-operation of the provinces was solicited, almost two thirds of the articles sent in are from the metropolis alone. No doubt the cost of transmission operated to prevent working men in other towns from becoming exhibitors. It is, however, curious that the greatest number of the provincial exhibitors live in such distant towns as Norwich, Bristol, Birmingham, and Plymouth. As might have been anticipated, Clerkenwell, Islington, and the north-eastern districts are the portions of the metropolis which contribute the most largely to the various sections of the exhibition. The number of occupations represented either in skilled or amateur work is upwards of 320. Of the exhibitors ninety-three are clerks, forty-four printers, forty-one engineers, thirty-seven carvers, thirty-seven carpenters, thirty-five engravers, twelve watchmakers, and twelve labourers. Space has been allotted to no fewer than 228 women. The directors of the Agricultural Hall Company and other persons have offered money prizes for competition, and Mr. Wyon has gratuitously designed a prize medal specially for the exhibition.

The hall itself has been very tastefully fitted up for this industrial show. The articles sent in for exhibition are ranged along what may be called the great nave of the hall, and also round the galleries. Under the galleries are stalls which shopkeepers rent for the display and sale of their goods. On banners suspended from the balconies are the names of the provincial towns which have sent up articles for exhibition. At one end of the hall a large orchestra is erected; at the other a fine life-boat, which has been purchased by the subscriptions of Sunday-school children, is raised upon its carriage, and forms a prominent object in the building. It is a remarkable fact, and one highly creditable to our operatives, that in class A, "Inventions, Improvements, and Ingenious Contrivances," there are no fewer than 134 entries. It is not a little curious also that some of the inventions are about the last one would expect from persons of the calling of the inventors. For instance, a butcher exhibits a decimal calculator, consisting of new rules in the sciences of numbers, and a decimal key, applicable to every kind of calculation; a

shorthand writer displays his inventive powers in a mill to grind crusts into flour; a clerk produces a novel machine for cutting pie-meats; and a printer has improved on teapots and silk hats. It may be very useful to develop inventive genius in this way irrespectively of the relation between the invention and the trade or calling of the inventor; but it can be scarcely advisable for skilled workmen to exhibit in amateur handicraft rather than in the workmanship upon which they depend for support. Yet this is too often the case in this exhibition, and the result is to be seen in a large number of worthless models which possess no merit whatever either in point of utility or beauty. There are absurd-looking churches, houses, and ships made up of countless little scraps of wood. The visitor is expected to admire these amateur efforts because they have been made with a penknife, or because they are formed of some out-of-the-way material. In this light one may view them as he would a one-legged dancer. They have a specialty, but that is all that can be said of them. As in previous exhibitions of a similar character, there are patchwork quilts on the production of which years of leisure have been expended, but which, except as triumphs of patience, are utterly destitute of merit. Such articles have no business in an exhibition of art and manufactures. In Class B, "Skilled Work," there are admirable specimens of cabinetwork and upholstery, and several of the hardware articles also are excellent. The display of wood-carving and modelling in this class affords satisfactory evidence of an advance of our workmen in the knowledge of design. Among the exhibitors is a lad named Teape, aged fourteen, who shows two carved heads of great promise. The manufacture of musical instruments is well represented, as is likewise that of horological and philosophical instruments. In one of the galleries are some excellent specimens of marbling and graining. Among the preserved natural objects are a case of stuffed birds, the work of a labourer in Hampstead; and four cases, all remarkably good, the achievement of a servant of the Duke of Manchester. The natural history of the silkworm is illustrated in an excellent glass case model by a porter living in St. Luke's. More than one domestic servant exhibits in Class F, "Ladies' Needlework." A pretty basket of flowers, copied from nature, is the work of a housemaid; a hearthrug, with figures of animals in wool, by a general servant; and two bedquilts by another domestic. What we see in our manufactories and shop windows is sufficient to show that the working men of the metropolis could make a much better figure than they do in this exhibition; but, considering the limited time at their own disposal, and the difficulty which men who have not shops of their own must frequently experience in getting up anything to exhibit on their own account, the show at Islington is creditable and promising. Certainly it is a marked improvement on any working men's exhibition which has preceded it.

The ceremony of inauguration took place at three o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. R. C. Hanbury, M.P., presiding. The ceremony commenced with the performance by Dr. Spark of a triumphal march composed by himself for the occasion. On the chairman ascending the dais prepared for him, the choir of the Tonic Sol-fa Association, consisting of 1000 voices, sang the Old Hundredth Psalm. The secretary, Mr. W. J. Watts, having read the report of the council, the chairman, accompanied by a number of other gentlemen, inspected the exhibition. On the return to the platform, the "Ode to Labour" was performed. This ode was written for the occasion by Mr. John Plummer, formerly a factory operative at Kettering, and set to music by Dr. Spark. The soloists were Madame Louisa Vinning and Mr. Weiss. Mr. J. Proudman acted as conductor, and the choral music was sung by the choir of the Tonic Sol-fa Association. The work was loudly applauded by a very large audience. On its conclusion the assembly was addressed by the chairman, who, having pointed out the social advantages of such exhibitions, observed that he saw, as the result of working men's efforts, such an amount of intelligence, such enthusiasm, and such devotedness in amateur labour, as satisfied him that, politics apart, very many of them might, with the greatest propriety and with positive benefit to the community, be intrusted with the franchise; and, as an ardent friend of the working classes, he would say to their representatives present there that in no way could they better, more surely, and more speedily attain what they, and he might say what he, believed to be their rights, than by quietly, peaceably, and industriously labouring in the production of mechanical contrivances, of scientific and useful instruments, of ornamental and architectural models, and of works of art. The hon. gentleman concluded by declaring the exhibition open, and praying that the Divine blessing might be vouchsafed to it during the period of its existence. The "Hallelujah Chorus" was then sung, and a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Miller, of Greenwich, followed. The ceremony was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

Concerts and other entertainments will be given during the continuance of the exhibition, which will be for several weeks; and the admission will be at so low a figure as to give all the working classes an opportunity of visiting it in the evening. It should be observed that in a gallery off the great hall a collection of works of art, contributed from South Kensington by the Science and Art Department, and numerous specimens of old china lent by Mr. Gladstone, are arranged for inspection by all visitors to the exhibition of manufactures.

OPENING OF THE CITY EXTENSION LINE TO WILLESDEN.—On Saturday last the new station on the London and North-Western main line was opened at Willesden junction for public traffic. This line, by means of the North London Railway, will give the London and North-Western traffic direct access to the heart of the City, in Broad-street; and to Hammersmith, Kew, Richmond, Kensington, &c. Arrangements have been made to run twenty-six trains daily from Broad-street to the junction with the North-Western main line at Willesden. Many of these trains are so timed as to enable passengers to catch the through train of the North-Western for Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, and other large towns. During the day several through trains ran between Broad-street and St. Albans and Watford, without change of carriages. From Willesden Junction twenty-three trains run to Broad-street immediately after the departure of the North-Western main-line trains, thus enabling passengers from the north to reach the City terminus in Broad-street. Between Willesden, Acton, Hammersmith, Kew, Richmond, Kensington, Chelsea, Clapham, the Crystal Palace, and the metropolitan outskirts, numerous trains run during the day. At present there are no Sunday trains. The opening of the Willesden-junction station will form an important addition to the metropolitan system of railways, and will, no doubt, by the additional facilities it will afford to railway passengers, prove to be a great public convenience.

MODERN BATTLES.—A pamphlet on the needle-gun by General de Gondrecourt contests the idea that battles of the present day are more sanguinary than those of former periods. The writer says:—"At Borodino the combatants lost a quarter of their effective; at Magenta and Solferino, an eighth; at the battle of Sedan, fought between Prince de Condé and the Prince of Orange, the two armies lost a third of their numbers, and Condé had three horses killed under him, by the rude muskets, old halberds, and clumsy pistols of that time, so far behind the present epoch of the needle-gun. Lastly, at the battle of Sadova the Prussians and Austrians lost an eighth of the troops engaged, and yet fought with obstinacy." The inference which the General draws is, that the new arms kill more quickly, but the battle is of short duration. The net result is that there are less victims. Besides, although it may be imprudent not to possess the new engines of war, they do not suffice alone to assure the victory. That depends, above all, on the genius of the General and the firmness of the soldiers.

LONDON OMNIBUSES.—On Tuesday evening Dr. Lankester held an inquest at the Wolsey Tavern, Kentish Town, on the body of Mr. Frederick Holmes, who met his death by falling from an omnibus on Saturday evening last while in the act of descending. It was shown that the deceased was perfectly sober, and in his usual state of health, that the rails on the top of the omnibus were 25 in. in height, and that the deceased had stumbled over them in preparing to come down. The jury said the condition of the London General Omnibus Company's conveyances is disgraceful, and that the rails on most of them are so fragile that those who grasp them are in many cases lured to their destruction. The Coroner concurred in these remarks, and added that he very frequently held inquests in cases similar to the present. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," but with the following special rider, which they wished to be transmitted to the General Omnibus Company:—"The jury are of opinion that the ascent and descent to and from omnibuses as at present constructed are exceedingly dangerous, and that the rails erected outside omnibuses are not sufficiently high, and they further believe that if the rails had been higher on the omnibus from which the deceased fell his life would not have been sacrificed."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

M. DROUYN DE LHUYS has resigned his post as French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Marquis de Moustier reigns in his stead. The Emperor does not let M. Drouyn de Lhuys go without bestowing something upon him. Napoleon writes that he deeply regrets that circumstances oblige him to accept the resignation of M. Drouyn de Lhuys; but, in order to keep the benefit of his services, he makes him a member of the Privy Council. Various explanations are offered as to the resignation of the Minister; but the general impression in Paris is that M. Drouyn de Lhuys has resigned because a more active policy than he could approve is about to be carried into effect with respect to German affairs. His great anxiety is that peace should be preserved, and because he saw reason to fear war he resigned. Another account gives a very different view of the affair. It is said that the Emperor, feeling his own humiliation in respect of the rejected demand for the Rhine provinces, makes M. Drouyn de Lhuys the scapegoat. The Minister wrote the demand, which was rejected, and he is sacrificed because a mistake was made.

A letter addressed by the Emperor to King Victor Emmanuel leaves no doubt as to the mode of proceeding to be adopted in carrying out the treaty regulating the cession of Venetia to Italy. The instrument to be employed is the Emperor's favourite one of a plebiscite; and the Venetians, by means of universal suffrage, are to express their wishes to be united to the Italian kingdom. In his letter the Emperor says he accepted the cession of the province from Austria to avoid useless bloodshed, and that with the intention of "restoring it to itself," in order that Italy might be free and mistress of her own destinies; and his Majesty claims credit for having once more used the influence of France in favour of humanity and the independence of peoples. The transfer of the fortresses and territory will be made, in the first instance, to a French commissioner, who will then arrange with the Venetian authorities for letting them into possession.

PRUSSIA, AUSTRIA, AND ITALY.

The King of Prussia has just put an extinguisher upon Hanover. The other day he received a deputation of Hanoverians, praying him not to annex the kingdom to Prussia, but to be contented with making it part of the North German Confederation. The King replied at considerable length. He was very suave, but very resolute, and gave the deputation clearly to understand that Hanover was gone as a separate kingdom. One of the deputation told him that this resolution would cause much discontent in Hanover, but the King was not to be moved.

The Indemnity Bill has been passed by the Prussian Chamber of Deputies. In the course of the debate on this measure, Count Bismarck endeavoured to show that there was very little real difference between the objects of the majority of the House and those of the Government. The most important questions now were those relating to foreign policy. The Austrian official press and the South German people were, he said, friendly to Prussia; but, on the other hand, there was scarcely a single European Power which had willingly aided in the establishment of the new unity of Germany. Then came a significant passage. The task of Prussia was not yet finished; its accomplishment would require the combined exertions of the entire nation. At first sight it would seem that Count Bismarck is a little sore at the attitude of the European Powers in respect to Prussia. What he means probably is, that the reorganisation of Germany is purely the act of Germany herself, and that she must not hold back until it is completed.

The treaty between Prussia and Hesse-Darmstadt stipulates for the payment of an indemnity to Prussia and for the cession to that Power of certain territory, including Homburg.

Owing to the delay which has taken place in initiating the negotiations for peace between Prussia and Saxony, apprehensions have been expressed in certain quarters lest the period of the armistice would be allowed to expire without results, and hostilities be resumed by the Prussians. It is gratifying to hear that at length formal negotiations have been commenced. It is a matter of minor importance that those with Saxe-Meiningen for its entry into the North German Confederation are broken off.

The negotiations for the treaty of peace between Austria and Italy have commenced, and some of the articles have already been agreed upon. Italy, however, is not waiting for the conclusion of peace to reduce her military establishment. She has ordered the dismissal of 120,000 men. No one can doubt that this is a wise policy. Italy has a prosperous future before her if she now sets to work in real earnest in the improvement of her finances and the extension of her commercial relations with foreign countries. A telegram informs us that the French Commissioner is busily engaged in arranging with the Austrian officers for the surrender of Venetia. The Austrians are reported to be evacuating the Quadrilateral, but it is likely to be October before Venice is freed from the presence of the Tedeschi.

HUNGARY.

The Emperor of Austria has granted permission to Franz Pulszky, a Hungarian exile, who held a Ministerial position under Kossuth in 1848, to visit his sick daughter in Hungary.

A rumour of Baron Sennyey's appointment as President of the new Hungarian Ministry is not yet confirmed. There are still prospects of the Deak party being victorious, and that Count Andrássy will be appointed President.

CANDIA.

Hopes are entertained that the embroilment in Candia will not lead to further serious consequences or the effusion of blood, official intelligence having reached Paris that the Turkish and Egyptian commanders are using their best efforts to effect a peaceful solution of the difficulty with the insurgents.

CIRCASSIA.

Letters received from Soukum Kaleh state that 7000 Abasians attacked and captured that town on the 27th of July, the Russian garrison at the time numbering only 600 men. A reinforcement of 1100 Russian troops had subsequently arrived at Soukum Kaleh, and driven out the insurgents. The enemy were making daily attacks upon the town, but were each time repulsed with heavy loss. The *Invalide Russe* publishes intelligence, dated Aug. 21, stating that the insurgents in the Caucasus have sent delegates to the Russian commander announcing their readiness to submit to the Imperial authority.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York, by the ordinary channels of communication, to the 24th ult.

President Johnson had issued a proclamation declaring Texas restored to the Union, and that peace, order, tranquillity, and civil authority now exist throughout the whole United States.

A committee had visited the President to present him a copy of the proceedings of the Philadelphia Convention. The President made a speech reiterating his determination to maintain his policy, and declared that the Convention was more important than any that had sat since 1787. The declarations made by the Convention were, he said, a second Declaration of Independence. General Grant stood at the President's side during the delivery of the speech. A convention of soldiers and sailors has been called to assemble at Cleveland on Sept. 17, to endorse Mr. Johnson's policy.

President Johnson had visited New York, and met with an enthusiastic reception.

General Sheridan has revoked his order establishing martial law in New Orleans. He reports that the immediate cause of the recent riots was the assembling of the Free State Convention, headed by revolutionary agitators; but he denounces the manner in which the Mayor and police suppressed the riots as unnecessarily atrocious and amounting to murder. He recommends the removal of the Mayor and Governor.

The friendly relations which have hitherto existed almost unbroken between France and the United States have received a rude

shock from the late proclamation of the President ignoring the blockade by the French squadron of Matamoros as a violation of treaty engagements and the law of nations. The proclamation was at once followed up by the dispatch of two vessels of war to the Rio Grande, the effect of which must be to compel the French to raise the blockade or enforce it by a fight. The chances are that before the arrival of the American ships the port will again be open.

MEXICO.

Intelligence from Vera Cruz, dated Aug. 13, states that after the surrender of Tampico the Imperial division, under the command of General Mejia, joined the Liberals. According to news from Matamoros to the 18th, the civil and military officials of that town had given in their adhesion to Canales. The latter had ordered General Wallace to deliver up the arms and ammunition which he recently shipped to Brownsville. The French had retaken Monterey, with a large number of prisoners. Cortinas has captured Reynosa from the Liberals, and had declared for the Imperialists.

SOUTH AMERICA.

Our advices from Rio Janeiro are to the 7th of August. The war in Paraguay presents no new feature; but, considerable reinforcements of troops, horses, and mules having reached the camp of the allies, active operations were expected to commence immediately. The Buenos Ayreans are occupied in the profitable pursuits of making and opening up railway communications, in settling and cultivating new and fertile regions, driving a large trade, and, upon the whole, doing their utmost to develop the almost inexhaustible resources of their fine country.

INDIA.

According to the latest intelligence from India, the famine in Bengal and certain portions of the Madras Presidency still continued, and the sufferings of the people were very great. A heavy storm had passed over Bombay, and inflicted much damage upon the shipping in the harbour; and on the Bombay and Baroda Railway many miles of embankment had been swept away.

Affairs in the Persian Gulf wear a more promising aspect. The usurping Imam of Muscat still retained the supremacy; but confidence was being gradually restored among the British and Hindoo merchants, who were in consequence returning to Muscat. The want of a station in the gulf is very much felt, in order to secure the line of transit via the Euphrates Valley.

WIVES FOR FRENCH CONVICTS.—A letter from Toulon says:—"A cellular van arrived here a few days ago containing twelve fine young girls from eighteen to twenty-five years of age, coming from the central house, or penitentiary, at Clermont, Oise. About sixty more girls are expected, and are to be shipped on board the *Ceres* for Cayenne, which it is now proposed to populate in a practical manner. These young girls—amongst whom is one who is a remarkable beauty—are destined to contract legitimate unions with those of the condemned in the penal colony who have distinguished themselves by their work and their good conduct. Each couple will receive concession of a plot of land and the necessary advances to open agricultural establishments."

AMERICAN PYRAMID.—An American paper states that a party of five young men, while on an exploring expedition recently along the Colorado River, discovered an immense pyramid on a barren plain. It was composed of layers of stone from 18 in. to nearly 3 ft. in thickness and from 5 ft. to 8 ft. in length. It had a level top of more than 50 ft. square, though it was evident that it had been completed, and that some great convulsion of nature had displaced its entire top, as it was evidently lying on one of its sides, a huge and broken mass, nearly covered by the sand. Its present length is 104 ft. and it must have been formerly full 20 ft. higher. This pyramid differs in some respects from the Egyptian pyramids. It is, or was, more slender or pointed; and, while those of Egypt are composed of steps or layers, receding as they rise, this American pyramid was, undoubtedly, a more finished structure. The outer surface of the blocks was evidently cut to an angle that gave the structure, when new and complete, a smooth or regular surface from top to bottom.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—On Sunday evening a female member of the Plymouth Brethren, Eliza Hawker, of Treble's paper-mills, Exwick, addressed a crowd of from 120 to 150 persons from the ruins of the shop formerly occupied by Abraham Harding, grocer, at the end of Jesu-street, leading into The Square, at Ottery St. Mary, Devonshire. Opposite were the ruins of the house occupied, previous to the fire which occurred in the same village some time since, by Mr. Window, saddler, consisting of a portion of a wall 6 ft. in length and 10 ft. in height, and a chimney 15 ft. high behind it. At half past seven the congregation from the neighbouring chapel augmented the crowd. There was no indication of approaching danger, and the people were quietly listening to the preacher. Presently a noise as of something giving way was heard, and instantly the chimney tottered over and fell on the wall, and before the crowd had time to escape the mass of brickwork was on them. The scene was most heartrending. In place of the one voice which had been heard just before, the cries and shrieks of a hundred voices rent the air; the road was covered with the rubbish, among which lay the mangled bodies of those on whom it had fallen. The groans of the injured and dying mingled with the lamentations of their friends, whom the news of the disaster soon brought to the spot. The unfortunate sufferers were soon extricated, and conveyed to public-houses and to their own homes, where those in whom life was not extinct were attended to. In all, eight lives have been lost by this occurrence, and several persons have been seriously injured.

THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION OF LORD MAYOR.—The election of a Lord Mayor of London for the year 1866-7 is fixed to take place on Saturday, the 29th inst. The members of the Court of Aldermen who have passed the shrievalty are alone eligible; and those who have not passed the chair stand in the following order:—Mr. Alderman Thomas Gabriel (Vintry), elected 1857; Mr. Alderman William Ferneley All-n (Cheap), elected 1858; Mr. Alderman Abbie (Bridge Within), elected 1859; Mr. Alderman James Clark Lawrence (Walbrook), elected 1860; Mr. Alderman Thomas Dakin (Candlewick), elected 1861; Mr. Alderman Lusk (Aldgate), elected 1862; and Mr. Alderman Gibbons (Castle Baynard), the present sheriff, whose shrievalty will then have expired. The ordinary course pursued at such elections is for the Livery to return the names of the two senior Aldermen below the chair to the Court of Aldermen, who select one as the new Lord Mayor, and the Court of Aldermen almost invariably select the senior of the two. In the event, therefore, of the old custom being adhered to, Alderman Gabriel will be the Lord Mayor of London for the year 1866-7. The Livery may, however, return any two of the Aldermen below the chair they please; and an elector may, if he is so disposed, nominate the present Lord Mayor for re-election, or either of the Aldermen who has passed the civic chair, in addition to those returned by the Livery. This was done when, not long since, Mr. Alderman Cubitt (then Lord Mayor) was proposed for re-election in opposition to Sir Henry Muggelidge, who was the first in order below the chair. The rumour is that the friends of the present Lord Mayor, desirous of securing a continuance of his services, are determined to put him in nomination again, in which case a poll must take place, and the Court of Aldermen will make their selection from the two who receive the largest number of votes from the Livery.

DIFFICULT TRANSIT.—A large crank-shaft of H.M.S. *Hercules*, weighing 34 tons 11 cwt. 0 gr. 7 lb., and supposed to be the largest iron forging ever made, was lately completed at the Mersey Steel and Iron Works, Liverpool. The forging is intended for the main crank-shaft of engines of 1200 nominal, or 7200 indicated, horse power, now being constructed by Messrs. John Penn and Sons, the eminent engineers, of Greenwich, who have been so successful in their manufacture of engines for the navies of the world. When the forging was made it had to wait a considerable time at Liverpool before the London and North-Western Railway Company could spare their large trolley to carry it to Camden Town station. When the trolley was procured arrangements had to be made for the conveyance by special train, which was only permitted to move at the rate of ten miles per hour, and on Sunday, so as not to interfere with the other important traffic of the line. Arriving safely at Camden Town, its chief difficulties seemed to commence. Messrs. Pickford, the great railway carriers, on making inquiries respecting the best route to take it from Camden to Messrs. Penn's factory at Greenwich, where it had to be delivered, found all sorts of obstacles present themselves. The noble new bridge at Westminster, one of the latest achievements of modern engineering, was closed against them under threats of official pains and penalties, and special care was taken for fear the terrible shaft should be smuggled over the bridge unawares. Waterloo Bridge was pronounced by its owners as sufficiently strong for any weight, and was accordingly selected; but there were several other difficulties to surmount, such as the underground railway, two railway bridges at New-cross, where the traffic was suspended for a few minutes while the monster crossed; and last, but not least, was the Ravensbourne, at Deptford, where an old-fashioned bridge looked rather shaky. By perseverance these difficulties were surmounted, and the shaft was landed in safety at Messrs. Penn's, Greenwich. Theshaft, which, with the trolley on which it was carried, weighed 45 tons, left Camden Town at six in the morning, drawn by thirty of Messrs. Pickford's fine horses, and was followed by crowds the whole way. Going down Regent-street and Waterloo-place the shaft appeared at times to be in danger of overrunning the horses; in fact, at one part of the latter the Guards' monument appeared to be rather in danger from the momentum the shaft had acquired in the steep gradient; but the powerful breaks on the trolley which conveyed it brought it up in time to round the corner safely.

PEACE TREATY BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

THE following is the full text of the treaty of peace concluded between Austria and Prussia on the 23rd ult.:

In the name of the Most Holy and Indivisible Trinity, his Majesty the King of Prussia and his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, animated by the desire of restoring to their countries the benefits of peace, have resolved to transform the preliminaries signed at Nikolsburg on the 26th of July, 1866, into a definitive treaty of peace.

For this purpose their Majesties have appointed as their Plenipotentiaries—the King of Prussia his Chamberlain, Privy Councillor, and Plenipotentiary, Carl Baron von Werther, Grand Cross of the Prussian Red Eagle, &c.; and the Emperor of Austria his Privy Councillor and Chamberlain, Ambassador Extraordinary, and Minister, Adolph Maria Baron von Brenner Felach, Commander of the Austrian Leopold Order, &c., who, having met in conference at Prague, and having exchanged powers and found them in good and proper form, have agreed upon the subjoined articles:

1. Peace and friendship shall prevail in future and for ever between his Majesty the King of Prussia and his Majesty the Emperor of Austria, their heirs and successors, their States and subjects.

2. In order to execute Article 6 of the peace preliminaries concluded at Nikolsburg upon July 26 last, and after the Emperor of the French has officially declared at Nikolsburg, upon the 29th of that month, through his Ambassador accredited to the King of Prussia, "Qu'en ce qui concerne le Gouvernement de l'Empereur la Venetie est acquise l'Italie pour lui être remise à la paix," the Emperor of Austria also accedes upon his part to this declaration, and gives his consent to the union of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom with the kingdom of Italy without any other compulsory condition save the liquidation of those debts which will be recognised as incumbent upon the ceded territories, in accordance with the precedent of the Treaty of Zurich.

3. The prisoners of war on both sides shall be at once released.

4. The Emperor of Austria recognises the dissolution of the hitherto existing Germanic Confederation, and gives his consent to a new organisation of Germany without the participation of the Austrian empire. His Majesty equally promises to recognise the closer Federal relation the King of Prussia will establish to the north of the Maine line, and declares himself agreed that the German states situated south of this line shall conclude a union the national connection of which with the North German Confederation remains reserved for further agreement between both parties, and which shall possess an international independent existence.

5. The Emperor of Austria transfers to the King of Prussia all his rights to the duchies of Holstein and Schleswig acquired by the Vienna Treaty of Oct. 30, 1864, with the understanding that, if the population of the northern districts of Schleswig shall manifest by free voting the wish to be united to Denmark, the districts in question shall be ceded to Denmark.

6. By desire of the Emperor of Austria the King of Prussia declares himself ready, during the impending alterations in Germany, to permit the present territory of the kingdom of Saxony to occupy the extent it has hitherto enjoyed, reserving to himself, upon the other hand, to determine more exactly the contribution of Saxony to the costs of the war, and the future position of the kingdom of Saxony within the North German Confederation, by a special peace treaty to be concluded with the King of Saxony. On the other hand, the Emperor of Austria promises to recognise the new arrangements to be established by the King of Prussia in North Germany, including the territorial changes.

7. In order to come to a settlement as to the property of the hitherto existing Confederation, a Commission shall meet at Frankfurt-on-the-Maine, within (at latest) six weeks after ratification of this present treaty, at which all demands and claims upon the Germanic Diet are to be brought forward and liquidated within six months. Prussia and Austria will send representatives to this Commission, and all other members of the hitherto existing Confederation are at liberty to do the same.

8. Austria remains entitled to remove or otherwise dispose of the Imperial property in the Federal fortresses and to adopt a similar course with the acknowledged share of Austria in movable Federal property. The same holds good of the entire movable property of the Confederation.

9. The officials, servants, and pensioners belonging to the staff of the Diet are secured the pensions to which they are entitled, or that have been already granted *pro rata* of the scale. The Prussian Government, however, undertakes the pensions and assistance-moneys to officers of the former Schleswig-Holstein army and their relatives, hitherto defrayed from the Federal funds.

10. The amount of the pensions granted by the Austrian Viceroy in Holstein remains secured to the parties interested. The sum of 449,500 Danish rix dollars in Four per Cent Danish State Bonds, in the custody of the Austrian Government, and belonging to the Holstein finances, will be returned thereto immediately after ratification of this present treaty. No native of the duchies of Holstein and Schleswig, and no subject of their Majesties the King of Prussia and the Emperor of Austria, shall be prosecuted, disquieted, or injured in person or property on account of his political conduct during the recent occurrences and the war.

11. The Emperor of Austria engages, in order to cover part of the costs incurred by Prussia in the war, to pay the King of Prussia the sum of 40,000,000 Prussian dollars. From this sum, however, shall be deducted the amount of the war costs the Emperor of Austria, by Art. 12 of the aforementioned Vienna Treaty of Oct. 30, 1864, has still to claim from the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein—i.e., 15,000,000 Prussian dollars, and as equivalent for the free provisionment the Prussian army shall enjoy in the Austrian districts it occupies until the conclusion of peace, a further sum of 5,000,000 Prussian dollars, so that only 20,000,000 of Prussian dollars remain to be paid in cash. Half of this sum shall be defrayed in cash simultaneously with the exchange of the ratifications of the present treaty, the remaining half three weeks later, at Oppeln.

12. The evacuation of the Austrian territories occupied by the Prussian troops shall be completed within three weeks after exchange of the ratifications of the peace treaty. From the day of the exchange of the ratifications the Prussian governing Generals will confine their functions to the purely military sphere of action. The special arrangements according to which this evacuation has to be carried out are settled in a separate protocol, forming a supplement to the present treaty.

13. All treaties and conventions concluded between the high contracting parties previous to the war, in so far as they are not necessarily rendered invalid by the dissolution of the Germanic Confederation, shall herewith re-enter in force. The general cartel convention between the German Federal States of Feb. 10, 1831, in especial, together with the supplementary clauses belonging thereto, retains its validity between Prussia and Austria. Nevertheless, the Austrian Government declares that the coinage treaty concluded Jan. 24, 1857, loses its chief value to Austria through the dissolution of the German Federal relation; and the Prussian Government declares itself ready to mediate in negotiations for the discontinuance of this treaty between Austria and the remaining participants in the same. The high contracting parties equally reserve to themselves to enter into negotiation as early as possible for a revision of the commercial and customs treaty of April 11, 1865, in the sense of increased facilities to mutual traffic. In the mean time the aforesaid treaty shall re-enter in force, with the understanding that it is reserved to either of the high contracting parties to terminate it after six months' notice to that effect.

14. The ratification of this present treaty shall be exchanged at Prague within a term of eight days, or, if possible, earlier. In token whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present treaty, and appended to it the seal of their arms.

Done at Prague this 23rd of August, 1866.

(Signed)

WERTHER,
BRENNER.

Appended to the treaty are a protocol respecting the exchange of prisoners and the evacuation of Austrian territory and the subjoined declaration as to the construction of railways:—The Governments of Prussia and Austria, actuated by the wish to increase the railway facilities between their respective territories, have empowered the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, upon the occasion of the peace negotiations, to make the following declaration, which has been signed and exchanged in duplicate this day:—

1. The Prussian Government engages to permit and further the establishment of a railway from a suitable point of the Silesian mountain line at Landsbut to the Austrian frontier at Liebau in the direction of Schwadowitz; and upon the other hand the Austrian Government will upon its part permit and further the establishment of a railway from a suitable point of the Prague and Brunn Railway at Wildenschwert to the Prussian frontier at Mittenwalde in the direction of Glatz.

2. The Austrian Government, should the Prussian Government consider it its interest, will permit the continuation of the Silesian mountain line to Glatz, through Braunau, without claiming any control over the management of the traffic of the portion of this line within its territory, reserving to itself, however, the exercise of all sovereign rights.

3. The detailed arrangements necessary for the construction of these railways shall be settled in a special treaty, for which purpose Plenipotentiaries of both Governments shall meet at the earliest possible period at a place to be agreed upon.

Prague, Aug. 23, 1866.

(Signed)

WERTHER,
BRENNER.

THE 1ST OF SEPTEMBER.—In the agricultural divisions of Yorkshire the "Feast of St. Partridge" was not very propitious this year. The weather has so interfered with the progress of the harvest that too much cover existed for the birds, and in consequence (sportsmen being almost wholly confined to turnips) only small bags were made. Some owners have entirely deferred the shooting for a fortnight. The crop of birds is good, and they are strong on the wing and in forward condition. Some of the "trading" shots were tolerably successful, however, birds being 3s. 6d. a brace at Malton on Saturday night. Hares and rabbits are prolific, but pheasants are scarce for the coming season.

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON.

ABOUT one o'clock on Sunday morning, the 2nd of September, 1666, two hundred years ago, began that event which contemporary chroniclers—with somewhat of short-sightedness, it must be allowed—describe as the greatest calamity which has ever befallen this country, the most signal visitation of Divine wrath. The occurrence of the two hundredth anniversary has led us to publish the accompanying Engraving of some parts of London which existed before the fire, and to re-peruse such records of the event as are preserved.

In that September of 1666 one frightful calamity had barely passed away. For five and twenty years, it is said, London had not been free from the plague—except three, not for seventy years. But in the summer of 1665 the enemy had assumed appalling proportions, 100,000 persons had died in the City itself, and fugitives had carried the infection far and wide through England. The grass had grown in the streets, and men who met glared fearfully and suspiciously on each other, moving apart to avoid contact. However, confidence was now restored, and though a few cases continued to be recorded throughout the summer of 1666, the citizens had returned to their homes again, when suddenly this new terror broke upon them. "Some of our maids sitting up late last night," says Pepys, "Jane called us up at three in the morning, to tell us of a great fire they saw in the City." It had begun about one o'clock in the morning, at a baker's shop in Pudding-lane, by Fish-street, the precise spot being, it is said, 202 ft. to the east of the Monument. Pudding-lane was so called, according to Stow, because the Eastcheap butchers "have their scalding-house for hogges there, and their puddings (refuse) are voided down that way to the Thames." The houses were built mostly of wood, and the storehouses around were full of combustible materials; "oil, pitch, tar, cordage, hemp, flax, resin, wax, butter, cheese, wine, brandy, sugar, and such like," says the City Remembrancer. But there were other circumstances to further the progress of the disaster. The season was very hot and rainless and the wood was very dry; the New River was almost empty; the engine at London Bridge, called the Thames Water Tower, was out of order; the citizens, according to custom, were attending the country fairs, the season of which was now at height; and the City was left to their wives and shopmen. The night was dark, and a strong east wind blowing; and thus it came to pass that, on Sunday morning, Pepys's "Jane" came to him with the sad news "that above 300 houses have been burnt down to-night by the fire which we saw, and that it is now burning all down Fish-street."

The inhabitants did not for a while realise the extent of the danger. The Lord Mayor, Sir Thomas Bludworth, had been there about three o'clock in the morning, and, with an expression much too coarse to be quoted here, had declared himself free from apprehension. But when day broke, and the extent of the calamity was more correctly estimated, he, like the rest, was panic-stricken, and ran about "like a man spent." It was suggested to blow up houses and stop the spread of the flames; but "he thought it not safe counsel," says Clarendon, "and made no answer than that he durst not do it without the consent of the owners." The Church of St. Magnus, at the foot of the bridge, one of the largest in the City, was the first to fall, and the flakes of fire from its high roof helped to scatter destruction. A Nonconformist divine, the Rev. T. Vincent, has left a narrative of the calamity, which he entitles "God's Terrible Advice to the City by Plague and Fire," plentifully garnished, of course, with Scriptural quotations, but told with a quaintness worthy of Fuller. "It was the 2nd of September that the anger of the Lord was kindled against London," so he begins. "The Lord made London like a fiery oven in the time of his anger (Ps. xxi. 9), and in his wrath did devour and swallow up our habitations." He describes that terrible Sunday with great vividness, "Some churches were in flames, and God seemed to come down and to preach himself in them, as he did on Mount Sinai when the mount burned with fire. Such warm preaching those churches never had; such lightning, dreadful sermons never were before delivered in London. Now the train-bands are up in arms, watching at every quarter for outlandish men, because of the general fears and jealousies, and rumours that fire-balls were thrown into the houses by several of them, to help on and provoke the too-furious flames. Yet some hopes were entertained on the Lord's Day that the fire would be extinguished, especially by them that lived in the remote parts; they could scarcely imagine that a fire a mile off should be able to reach their houses."

Imagined or not imagined, it was plain by eventide on Sunday that there was much more than a possibility that it would be so. The yellow smoke blown over the City by the wind gave the whole the appearance of being on fire. Hitherto the fire had been confined to Thames street and the houses at the back of it. About half the houses on London Bridge had fallen; but the fire had then turned, and the rest escaped. During the night the people were engaged in pulling down houses, but it was of no use now. So many different avenues of flame were open, every obstacle was overleapt; if the course of one stream was stayed others were increased, and the fierce heat drove back all opposers. "For ten miles round about," says Evelyn, "the whole country was light as day, after a dreadful manner." On Monday morning Tower-street, Fenchurch-street, and Graceious (Gracechurch) street, were consumed, and all writers, earnestly but not too successfully, vie with each other to describe a scene which inevitably leaves the imagination far behind. Gaze down whatever street you would, the flames poured forth from every window to unite into one great volume; "and then you might see the houses tumble, tumble, from one end to another, with a great crash, leaving the foundations open to the view of the heavens. The burning then (Monday) was in fashion of a bow—a dreadful bow it was, such as mine (Vincent's) eyes never before had seen—a bow which had God's arrow in it with a flaming point; it was a shining bow, not like that in the cloud, which brings water with it, and withal signifies God's covenant not to destroy the world any more with water; but it was a bow which had fire in it, which signified God's anger, and his intention to destroy London with fire."

Cornhill was a wide thoroughfare. It was attacked about mid-day, and a great mass of wood had been pulled from houses and thrown into the middle of the road; "and so the flames licked the whole street as they went, and marched along on both sides, on roofs and in cellars, with such a noise as never was heard in the city of London." The Royal Exchange had fallen before night, and it is remarked as curious, both by Pepys and Evelyn, that, while all the pictures (statues) of the kings since the Conquest had fallen, that of the founder, Sir Thomas Gresham, and his alone, stood uninjured. "Queen Elizabeth's effigies," too, in Cornhill, "continued with but little detriment, whilst vast iron chains and hinges were melted by the vehement heat."

Meanwhile, a scene of precipitate flight was going on at every gate, for the City was then entirely walled. Thirty pounds are said to have been given for the loan of a cart to convey goods into the fields of Islington, Finsbury, and Bethnal-green. Pepys was on the Thames on Monday morning, with the King and Duke of York, in the Royal barge. There were hopes, he says, that it would be stayed at the Three Cranes. An old drawing,* now before us, explains the hope. The cranes stand on the bank of the river for the movement of goods, and there is a large and spacious wharf behind them, and a wide thoroughfare leading up to Watling-street. However, the wind speedily dispelled this hope, "and we knew not what the fire was doing in the City. The river was full of lighters and boats taking in goods, and good goods swimming in the water; and I observed that hardly one lighter or boat in three but it had a pair of virginals (harpsichord) in it." In the afternoon he went again with his wife and others. "All over the Thames you were almost burned with a shower of fire drops. When we could endure no more upon the water, we went to a little alehouse on the Bankside, over against the Three Cranes, and there staid till it was almost dark, and saw the fire grow, and as it grew darker appeared

* For the use of several interesting old drawings and rare prints we have to thank Mr. Edward Sartoris, of Warnford Court.

more and more, and in corners and upon steeples, and between churches and houses, as far as we could see, up the hill of the City in a most horrid, malicious, bloody flame, not like the fine flame of an ordinary fire. We staid still, it being darkish, we saw the fire an only one entire arch of fire from this to the other side the bridge, and in a bow up the hill for an arch of above a mile long. It made me weep to see it. The churches, houses, and all on fire, and flaming at once, and a horrid noise the flames made, and the cracking of houses and their ruins. So home with a sad heart."

On Tuesday morning one line of the fire "from Cornhill along by the stokes" (stocks) met with others from Threadneedle-street, Wallbroke, and Bucklersbury. The stream rushed up Chepeside, gathering strength on each flank, and at mid-day began the attack on "Paul's Church," being aided by a stream which had come up westward from the Black Friars. Several prints of the cathedral are before us. The church was cruciform; the nave is Early

English, very like that of Westminster Abbey, and, like that, it has a clerestory and side aisles, with flying buttresses. The transepts are "classical," the work of Inigo Jones; as is also the choir, with round windows, and square carved stones, which remind one of the front of Somerset House. The east had a window of seven lofty lights, like the window of the Five Sisters at York; there is a beautiful rose window above this, and a round-headed one, not beautiful, above that. For a long time it was hoped that the church would escape. It towered as high as the flames, apparently defying them scornfully. But at length it was seen to be on fire at the top, and soon the melted lead poured down, the stones cracked, the great beams fell in, and the Church of St. Faith beneath, which the stationers had filled with their countless books, was crushed and destroyed. This catastrophe is the culminating point of the calamity. The record goes on to tell the names of the streets which, one after another, fell a prey. By Tuesday night nearly the

whole of the City was consumed, and even the people in the suburbs were in full flight. Baynard's Castle, so famous for its associations with Richard Crookback, the Old Bailey, Guildhall, had all fallen. "I wrote to my father this night," says Sam Pepys, "but the post-office being burned, my letter could not go. I lay down, being mighty weary and sore in my feet with going till I was hardly able to stand."

Wednesday morning found the fire advanced as far as the Temple on one side and the Tower on the other. But the wind had suddenly hushed, and the streets were less narrow and close. It is said that the Duke of York arranged the blowing up of the houses with gunpowder between the fire and the unscathed streets. At all events, it was done, and now the spread of the conflagration ceased. "It is a strange thing," says Pepys, "to see how long this time did look since Sunday, having been always full of variety of actions and little sleep, that it looked like a week or more, and I had forgot the



PROPOSED HOP AND MALT EXCHANGE, SOUTHWARK-STREET, BOROUGH.

days of the week." "Four days after," says Clarendon, "people who had buried papers and linen in vaults came to look for them, and on their being opened to the air they caught fire. Others, learning wisdom thereby, waited till rain fell and the air was cooled."

The fire reached two miles in length and one in breadth. Pyecorner, the last place burnt, was in Smithfield. The conjunction of this name with Pudding-lane was a conclusive proof to improvers of the occasion that the visitation was intended as a judgment upon gluttony. A statue of a fat boy, with an inscription stating so much, was set up in Pyecorner. What became of it we know not. The flames consumed 13,200 houses, 89 churches, and £11,000,000 worth of property. Only six lives were lost. The church registers and plate seem to have been mostly saved; at least, we have seen several belonging to destroyed churches, amongst which let not the books of All Hallows', Bread-street, be forgotten, containing as they do the baptismal register of "John Mylton."

It is pleasant to find one case where the courtly praises of Dryden seem to have been deserved. All accounts agree in extolling the vigour and wisdom of Charles II. and his brother, and therefore we may probably take the "Annus Mirabilis" as containing in the main a true narrative of the Great Fire of London. Let it not be for-

gotten, too, that when the King ordered a fast throughout England and a collection for the 200,000 homeless people, not only did our people respond nobly, but the generous Irish gave alms of such things as they had, and sent 30,000 fat oxen.—*Daily Telegraph*.

HOP AND MALT EXCHANGE.

ON Friday week, the 31st ult., the foundation-stone of the buildings of the Hop and Malt Exchange and Warehouse Company (Limited) was laid by Sir Brook W. Bridges, M.P. The building, of which Mr. Moore is architect, has a frontage of 320 ft. in Southwark-street, and incloses an area of nearly 26,000 square feet, and, being immediately opposite the new premises of the Hop Planters' Association, in the centre of the hop trade operations, and in close proximity to the Borough branches of the London and County, London and Westminster, and Alliance Banks, occupies, perhaps, the most eligible site that could be selected for the purposes of the company in the Borough. From the locality, magnitude, and appointments of the building, it is calculated to afford every facility for the transaction of business according to the various requirements of the trade, so that growers, merchants, dealers, and buyers will

have the advantage of a ready and well-attended market close to the terminus of the railways which pass through the hop-growing districts of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, and thus avoid the inconvenience of visiting the merchants' counting-houses in various parts of the Borough. Space is also to be provided for private and general offices, stowage of stock, sample and show rooms, with every requisite for the complete accommodation of tenants and shareholders.

The proceedings were commenced by Mr. Ogilvy, one of the directors of the company, who introduced Sir Brook Bridges, whom they had invited to lay the foundation-stone, as representing one of the divisions of the county of Kent peculiarly interested in the production of hops. The Hon. Baronet was received with loud cheers by the shareholders, hopgrowers, brewers, and others interested in the hop and malt trades who were present. The secretary, Mr. Herbert R. Duke, then read the prospectus of the company, which, along with the articles of the association and the coins of the realm, Sir B. Bridges deposited in the cavity over which the foundation-stone was laid, and cemented with the accustomed formalities, the worthy Baronet wishing a happy and prosperous future to the building so auspiciously commenced. Immediately after the ceremony an elegant lunch was provided by the company under an awning on



THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON IN 1666.

part of the site to be occupied by the building. Sir Brook Bridges presided, supported by Messrs. Ogilvy, Dyer, Lucas, Conybeare, Humphreys, Addis, and Taylor, directors; Mr. Slater, manager; Mr. Duke, secretary; Mr. Moore, architect, &c. Covers were laid for eighty. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman proposed "Prosperity to the Hop and Commercial Exchange Company," and testified to the beneficial effect which he had no doubt the building they had inaugurated was destined to have on the interests of hop-growers, dealers, buyers, and consumers in general. The legislation of last Session showed in the strongest manner the necessity of some such institution as this. Powers were given of an extraordinary character, requiring that the various growths of hops should be marked, so that producers and consumers might be satisfied that no adulteration had taken place. Indeed, the arrangements of the company were such as in a great degree to enable them to implement satisfactorily the requirements of the Legislature. The toast was acknowledged by Mr. Ogilvy. Mr. Conybeare proposed the health of the chairman, Sir Brook Bridges, who returned thanks, and gave "The Directors," which was acknowledged by Mr. Humphreys, after which the company separated.

It was stated in the prospectus of the company, read on the occasion, that the average annual produce of English-grown hops for the last ten years has been upwards of 300,000 cwt., the greater part of which were sent to the Borough for sale. This quantity has considerably increased by the cultivation of a larger acreage, owing to the repeal of the hop duty; while, from the same cause, a proportionate increase in the importation of hops has arisen. It has been the custom to purchase hops only at certain periods of the year; but the importation of foreign hops, the establishment of an open market, and the introduction of the malt and barley trades, will, it is thought, change the practice, and render weekly transactions necessary. The company have taken the Corn Exchange as their model; and, with respect to that mart, it appeared that the original £100 shares are now worth £1350.

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BRIBERY AND ITS CURE.

WHAT a pity 'tis that there is so little sincerity in the denunciations we hear on all sides of bribery at elections! A large amount of holy horror is expressed against the practice, and much virtuous indignation is expended, which would both be very valuable and very creditable—if they were only real. But the whole thing is a sham. Briber, bribee, and bystanders all seem to regard the practice as a sort of wicked bit of fun—one of those pieces of "Fie! fie!" which every one rather likes and chuckles over while he feels bound to condemn, but which all who find it convenient or profitable are at liberty to practise, nevertheless. The talking, and writing, and Parliamentary-Committee-ing, and Royal-Commissioning in which we indulge against bribery are mere hollow humbug and hypocrisy. We are all very much in the case of the Yarmouth elector: we none of us consider it a sin either to give or take money for votes. If there are any sincere among us on this subject, it must be those persons who have neither votes to sell nor money to buy them with.

All our efforts to suppress bribery have failed; and failed, mainly, because they were not meant to succeed; and they were not meant to succeed, because the retention of bribery is convenient both for our lawmakers and the choosers of our lawmakers, neither of whom really consider it sinful, whatever professions they may make. It is in vain to hope to suppress a practice by making it a crime by law when the moral sense of the community does not recognise it as sinful. The only result will be that the law will be set at nought, while the practice denounced will be indulged in all the same. People are not deterred from committing the act against which the law is levelled, but they are made familiar with law-breaking and are inured to hypocrisy. This is especially the case with bribery. All our legislation against it, all our denunciations of its perpetrators, all our Parliamentary Committees, and all our Royal Commissions have been powerless to check it, and have only taught people how to sin in other directions.

Having thus failed to suppress bribery by penal enactments, why not try the effect of a totally different course of procedure, and—legalise it? make a vote a perfectly legitimate article of barter, a thing which one man may lawfully sell and another lawfully buy? We are convinced this would put a stop to bribery at once; for whereas now it is only necessary to buy as many votes as will turn the scale in a contest, then every member of a constituency would have to be purchased; and one of two things would result, either that no candidate—not even a commercial man, the favourite sort of candidate at Totnes—would be found willing to make so large a venture as the purchase of a whole constituency, or votes would become, by competition, mere drugs in the market, and unable to command a price. Any way, bribery would be doomed. Besides, were votes subjects of legitimate barter, the article, while there was a demand for it, would come to be advertised; and thus, an element of the ridiculous would get mixed up with the business. For instance, would it not be comical to find in the columns of the "usual vehicles of publicity" such notifications as these—"For sale, the votes of ten free and independent electors of Little Pedlington. May be had a bargain;" or, "Wanted, twenty votes for Great Bumble-

dom. Will be treated for singly or in batches;" and so forth.

But, seriously, we do not see any grave objection to the proposal we have made. We may be told that trafficking in votes saps the sources of patriotism, love of country, and public spirit. Perhaps so; but it must do that now, under a system of secret treaty, quite as seriously as it would under one of open barter; while the evils to which we have already alluded—of lying, hypocrisy, and familiarity with law-breaking—are superadded. We have the thing—crime, if you will—practised, as it is, plus several other crimes, of at least some of which we should get quit by making vote-selling legal. At all events, it is no use going on upon our present system. Here we have just now some four or five election Commissions sitting, involving an enormous expense, and which yet can have no useful practical result. The grossest corruption is proved to exist; and yet nobody is ashamed and nobody can be punished for all have been promised immunity if they will make "a clean breast of it;" and a "clean breast" they do make of it, to the intense delight of themselves and others, for every one seems to enjoy the "fun of the thing" amazingly. True, particular boroughs may be disfranchised; but that will not cure the evil; it will merely shift the field of operations to other places. So long as there are rich men desirous of seats in Parliament, and willing to pay for them within practicable limits, there will be poor electors ready to accept payment—when they can get it. The corrupt and skilful few now profit. Adopt our proposal, however—allow votes to become legitimate articles of barter—and all further trouble on the subject will be obviated; the evil will cure itself, for all the votes in the community can't be bought, and, if they could, it would be at such a low price as not to be worth anyone's while selling.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE EMPRESS of the French and the Prince Imperial left Paris on Saturday last for Biarritz, and it is believed that the Emperor will follow them on Monday next.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has just concluded the purchase of an estate of nearly 400 acres, near Launceston, Cornwall, at the price of £26,000. It is intended for business purposes connected with the duchy.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has ordered the amount fixed for the Court expenditure in 1867 to be reduced from 7,500,000 fl. to 5,000,000 fl. A large portion of the Imperial retinue has been dismissed, and considerable retrenchments are about to be made in the salaries of the chief Court functionaries.

THE EX-QUEEN OF NAPLES has, it is said, been selling some of her jewels, and certain pearls valued at 30,000 crowns have been parted with for 18,000.

COUNT DE MONTALEMBERT, who has been seriously ill, is slowly mending, and has in part resumed his literary labours.

MR. SYDNEY SMIRKE, R.A., has been appointed architect for the new Royal Academy buildings.

MR. PRICE, Q.C., has been appointed by Mr. Walpole to the recordership of York, vacant by the death of Mr. Hindmarch.

THE GRAND WELSH NATIONAL ESTEEDFOD was opened, on Tuesday, at Chester, under the presidency of Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., M.P. The proceedings were of an interesting character. They are to be continued during the week.

MR. BOUCICAULT, besides being represented at the Holborn Theatre and at the Lyceum (at the latter he and Mrs. Boucicault take part in "The Long Strike"), is to produce a sensation drama at Drury Lane after Easter.

MR. BRIGHT has accepted an invitation to a public reform banquet in Dublin. The day has not been named, but it is understood the banquet will not take place before the middle of October.

A MOVEMENT is said to be on foot for securing Mr. Edmond Beales as a candidate for the representation of the borough of Lambeth at the next election, in the room of Mr. F. Doulton.

A TERRIFIC PETROLEUM EXPLOSION has occurred at Long Dock, opposite New York. Six lives were lost and numbers of persons injured. Property to the amount of 1,000,000 dols. was destroyed.

MR. SPENCER PERCIVAL, the barrister appointed to revise the list of voters for the city of London, has announced that he will hold a sitting for that purpose in the Court of Common Pleas, Guildhall-yard, on Wednesday, Oct. 3.

SIR ALEXANDER PENROSE GORDON CUMMING, Bart., of Altyre, died in Edinburgh on Sunday afternoon, after a long and painful illness.

MR. SPURGEON has given it as his opinion that returning thanks to God after childbirth is, in most cases, "an absurd, superstitious practice."

THE COST OF THE WAR, including the losses undergone by the neutral countries and the indemnities to be paid, is estimated in Vienna at £40,000,000.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for erecting a monument to the memory of Henry Kirke White in the church of Wilford, near Nottingham, which was his favourite resort.

THE ITALIAN ATTORNEY-GENERAL has commenced a prosecution against the *Unità Italiana* for publishing Mazzini's letter declining the amnesty.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE has followed up what has been called his dismissal of Mr. Beales (although, in truth, his Lordship merely declined to reappoint that gentleman) by nominating Mr. Bacon, of Lincoln's Inn, to the office of revising barrister for Middlesex.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT has proposed the introduction of a bill for the amendment of the Constitution.

A BANQUET IN HONOUR OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY has been given at St. Petersburg by the Russian Emperor, at which his Majesty drank "to the prosperity and consolidation of the United States."

THE NEW GERMAN PARLIAMENT, it is affirmed, will meet in two months, at Berlin. The assembly will comprise the deputies of all the States of the Northern Confederation, and will hold its sittings at the Victoria Theatre, which is to be appropriated to that object.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF WORKS has decided upon the plans for the new buildings of the London University at the back of Burlington House. Mr. Pennington, architect to the Board of Works, having furnished two designs—one in a classic style, the other in what is called Italian Gothic—Lord John Manners has chosen the latter.

A CARICATURE in the Paris *Charivari* represents a Prussian General sitting on a marble bench in a public garden smoking a cigar. A pretty little girl, whom he has been noticing, says to him:—"General, my papa likes you very much." "What is your papa's business, my dear?" "He makes wooden legs."

THE REGIUS PROFESSORSHIP OF GREEK IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE is about to become vacant, the Rev. W. Hepworth Thompson, who has held it since 1853, having intimated his intention of resigning it on his elevation to the mastership of Trinity. A canonry in Ely Cathedral is annexed to the professorship, which is in the gift of the council of the senate.

THE NOBILITY, the army, and the people of Hanover generally have forwarded to the Queen an address of sympathy and devotion, bearing nearly 100,000 signatures, obtained in the course of a single day. Vast crowds assembled in the streets to affix their signatures, but towards the evening the Prussian military authorities interposed and compelled the assemblage to disperse.

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS, intended to have been printed separately, were by some blunder so arranged that they read consecutively in a Paris journal:—"Dr. — has been appointed head physician to the Hospital de la Charité.—Orders have been issued by the authorities for the immediate extension of the cemetery of Mount Parnasse; the works are being executed with the utmost dispatch."

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE, when lately at Nancy, received the municipal authorities of the province. The Prince Imperial was with her Majesty. The Mayor of a small commune was anxious not to withdraw without having addressed a gracious word to the young Prince. "What is your age, my Prince?" said he. "I am ten," answered the Prince. "So young, and already the son of the Emperor of the French!" exclaimed the Mayor, with great emphasis.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

TRAVELLING some time ago by rail, I met with one of her Majesty's justices of the peace—not one of the great unpaid, but a salaried magistrate, learned in the law, and an author. We got to talking about the House of Commons, and especially the speaking there; and in course of conversation he remarked that the oratory of the House of Commons has strangely lost in force of late years; has, to use his own words, become emasculated, tame, and utterly devoid of the vigour which characterised it in bygone times. "Perhaps there are not," said I (wishing to draw him out), "the same wrongs, and jobs, and misgovernment to denounce now that there were fifty years ago." "Perhaps so," he replied; "but there are wrongs and jobs now which ought to be denounced; but the truth is, the House has got so dreadfully polite and mealy-mouthed that it dare not call things by their right names." And this testimony is true. I am away from my books, or I could prove to you that Burke and his cotemporaries were accustomed to speak far more strongly than any member, even the boldest, dare to speak now. Knavery was called knavery, then; jobbery, jobbery; and a rogue, a rogue. And much later than Burke's time there was a good deal of the old spirit left in the House of Commons. The reform battle thirty-five years ago was no rose-water affair, but a life-and-death grapple, in which hard blows were given and daring things done. Take this case:—"I wish," said an honourable member, "to ask the honourable member for — (name forgotten) whether it is true that he told the tax-gatherer to call again after the Reform Bill shall have been passed." Whereupon the honourable member appealed to jumped up and shouted out, "Yes, I did," and was greeted by enthusiastic cheers from his party. And if any of your readers will take the trouble to refer to the debates of that period they will discover that the late discussions on reform were tameness itself as compared with the debates upon the first reform bill.

But it seems now that not only are we to have dull, passionless, milk-and-water oratory in the House of Commons, but everywhere else we are to speak with bated breath and whispering humbleness, even in those time-honoured and glorious gatherings of the people by which they have won so many political victories. John Bright lately delivered at Birmingham one of his eloquent, vigorous speeches, in the course of which he denounced Robert Lowe's cruel slanders of the artisans, and asserted that the Earl of Derby had declared war against the working classes—meaning, of course, upon the reform question; and straightway what a howl against him for his "violence" has arisen from all Whig and Conservative throats! Violence! Why, I have heard in my young days speeches in the House of Commons ten times more violent than this. In truth, in this speech of Mr. Bright's there was no violence nor incentives to violence. It was simply a racy, vigorous, outspoken harangue. Nay, come to that, there was in some of Mr. Lowe's speeches during the late debate upon reform far more violence than there was in this speech of Mr. Bright. In fact, in Lowe's speeches there was violence, whilst, as I have said, in Bright's oration there was none. This howling about violence is very absurd and childish. There is a fair stand-up fight between the two old parties—the party of Conservatism and the party of Progress. Let it be fought out; and if one party gets a hard knock, let it return the blow—this is the old English way—and not whine and sob like a lubberly, cowardly boy. Lord Derby declared that he meant to "stem the tide of democracy," meaning that he will not lower the franchise. "Very well, my Lord," says Democracy, "we will try a fall with you." And so the fight begun. And now to it, and may the best win; but we must have no whining and putting the finger in the eye if you happen to get an ugly knock, my Lord.

Shakespeare speaks of ambition which "o'erleaps itself and falls o' tother." And many an instance of this have we had brought out of late by Parliamentary Committees and Royal Commissions on Parliamentary elections. And notably above all stands the late member for Totnes, Mr. John Pender. This gentleman has got very rich of late by successful speculations in cotton, &c., during the American war. He was one of those clever fellows who foresaw the cotton famine ahead, and bought largely at a low figure and sold at a very high one. But what was the use of all this wealth if it could not bring honour, position, &c. "Wealth! I am satiated with wealth—encumbered with it. What I want now is to climb up to those shining heights above and mix with the grand society there; and by hook or by crook, *per fas aut nefas*, at all costs, if every rung of the ladder must be of gold, up to that shining table-land I will climb." And climb he did—and safely climbed; and for a time revelled in this heaven among the gods, like another Ixion. But alas! in four years there came a dissolution of Parliament, and then, of course, our Ixion had to go down. But he got up again, and apparently with ease and honour, for he was at the head of the poll—beating the Duke's candidate by six, and the highest Conservative by forty-eight. But wise men shook their heads, as much as to say, "Thou hast it; but we fear thou playdest a desperate game for it; and it is questionable whether thou wilt be able to hold what thou hast got." 'Twas more than questionable, as events proved; for, as soon as might be, a petition was presented, and on trial bribery was proved, and out Ixion was turned—out of heaven, down into the shades below, there, one would think, to be bound to the wheel of disappointment, if not of remorse, as long as he lives. And so "vaulting ambition o'erleaped itself, and fell o' tother;" and so it did in the case of Schneider at Lancaster, and others; and so may it always do.

Will the world in general, and London in particular, I wonder, never get rid of the race of Goths, Vandals, barbarians, savages, fools—if any epithet can be devised sufficiently strong to characterise their conduct—no member of which can be permitted to enter any public building or other place where objects of interest are collected without being guilty of some piece of folly and doing some serious bit of damage? Here has a scion of the Vandal tribe been injuring the statues in the New Palace at Westminster—statues which are, probably, the most interesting features of the whole building, and to damage which, one would have thought, would have been the last thing to enter into the head even of a Vandalian fool. How intensely crass must have been the ignorance, stupidity, and folly of the creature who conceived the notion of placing a tobacco-pipe in the hand of the venerable historian of the civil war—Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon! If the brute should ever boast of his exploit—which it is probable he is quite capable of doing—and so reveal his identity, I hope some one will kick him heartily for his pains.

Who is to blame for the annual sacrifice of life which takes place through that most useless, and therefore senseless, of all passions—the mania for Alp-climbing? We know that no object whatever, save the gratification of a morbid vanity, can be served by ascents of Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn, and other Alpine heights. All that can be learned about those rugged, bare, and frozen summits is already known. There is nothing to be disclosed, either of beauty or utility, by the perilous undertaking of clambering, or being dragged with ropes, up the sides of frozen mountains, at the imminent risk of life and limb. Why, then, are such ascents so frequently undertaken, notwithstanding the sad warnings which the annual crop of disasters affords? Mainly, I believe, because individuals who accomplish the feat—by the help of the guides, and in a fashion which would be as creditable to a log of wood as to the bulk of the adventurers—are petted and made lions of in the drawing-rooms of London on their return. It is not a love of natural phenomena; it is not even, I believe, a passion for physical exertion and an inclination to exhaust superfluous energy, which actuates the great bulk of Alp-climbers. It is a sheer passion for vulgar bragging and a desire to be able to crow over less reckless but more sensible compeers—to look important in the eyes of boarding-school misses and other silly people; and when so many lives are sacrificed to the gratification of this absurd fancy, it is time that the shafts of ridicule were brought to bear upon the practisers and abettors of these follies, seeing that reason and common-sense have failed to put a stop to the mischief. As female applause and wonder may, and probably has, done much

to stimulate Alpine adventure, female condemnation may be influential in repressing so dangerous a folly; and, as women's hearts must be the most severely wrung by the repeated accidents that occur, I would bespeak women's aid in discouraging these dangerous and objectionable feats for the future.

Messrs. Walker, of Margaret-street, have published some excellent photographs of "Artemus Ward," whose contributions to *Punch* appear to me to be an improvement upon his American essays. Just having read his last, on Wednesday, I took up a contemporary, and there found this startling sentence in a leader:—"A peace society . . . to demonstrate that progress is possible without the periodicals' laughter which afflict while they demoralise mankind, and to convince potentates that their interest lies in never drawing the sword." "Periodicals—laughter," afflicting and demoralising mankind! Wretched *Punch*! unhappy *Fun*! But on studying the matter a little more closely, the truth became apparent. The final *s* after "periodical" had been slipped from the initial of the next word. "Periodical slaughters" should have been the reading. Accidents will happen in the best regulated printing-offices.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES

Blackwood distinguishes itself this month by a very good article entitled "English Converts to Romanism," which openly expresses what a good many people must have been quietly thinking—viz., that Roman Catholicism of the extreme school has lost more than it has gained by the accession of certain distinguished "perverts"—notably Dr. Newman. That original man and powerful writer has done more to *schismatise*—if I may coin a word—modern Roman Catholicism than anybody could well have thought possible. A comparison of Manning, Oakley, and Newman on Virgin worship is particularly instructive; and it is interesting to observe, too, that, meekly as the Roman Catholic body took the unexpected elevation of Dr. Manning to the see of Westminster, it has not been without a sort of disintegrating influence. People may trample on their discontent in such cases, but it smoulders on and does its work. I may add, however, that, in the foot-note in which the writer of this article hints that "the tenderness of Dr. Manning towards Dissenters may owe something to the appreciation that body has shown of his style," he seems, to me, to be putting the cart before the horse. The order of preferences, I believe, to have been just the reverse, and the cause lies deeper. Has not Dr. Fusey, in fact, shown exactly the same kind of "tenderness" towards Dissenters?

The *Cornhill* is, as usual, good; and "The Village on the Cliff" decidedly improves at it goes on. "Granny Leatham's Revenge" is a very nice little story. Mr. Swinburne's "Cleopatra" is nothing particular, one way or the other; it is Swinburnian manufacture to Mr. Sandys' powerful drawing. The working man's article on "The Education of the Working Classes" is behind the times and, I think, quite disloyal. The writer of this paper may depend upon it there are thousands of the "working classes" who understand better than he understands, or pretends to understand—for we distrust him—the fundamental principles of political discussion; and who will not be persuaded that they have not "a special grievance" (which he denies) against the "aristocracy"—meaning the great landowners. The working man will find in Mr. Mill (for example) far more heretical and revolutionary things on this subject than Mr. Bright has ever said; and our children will live to see brisk fighting upon such questions. What is said about the education proper of the working man is a quarter of a century behind the time.

In *Macmillan* we all gladly welcome back Mrs. Norton, who resumes "Old Sir Douglas" in the present number. Mr. John Morley writes a very sensible and balanced article on "Social Responsibilities." There is a paper upon Women's questions which may profitably be read in connection with one in *Blackwood* on the same subject, entitled "The Great Unrepresented." The article on "The Expression of the Eye" overlooks—as all articles on the subject make a point of doing—the most important part of the subject.

In *Temple Bar* "Archie Lovell" is the best thing; though "Our War Paint" and "Karl's First Love" are good in their different ways. The author of the article on "German Tables d'Hôte" quotes from Leigh Hunt's rendering of Redi's "Baccanale Toscana," which is not as well known as such pleasant reading deserves to be.

The *Churchman's Family Magazine* and the *Victoria* both deserve a kind word; and with them may pass, complimented, the *St. James's Magazine*, in which Miss Braddon concludes "The Lady's Mile."

But *London Society* is better than usual—better even in the woodcuts. Mr. Robertson, on "The Queen of Comedy," is as felicitous, as bright, as well-informed as he always is; and the woodcuts of Madeline Brohan, Mdle. Victoria, and Mdle. Massin are capital, judging from the photographs, with which, I suppose, we are most of us familiar.

In the *Argosy* we have, in the leading story, the beginning of Mrs. Gaunt's trial for the murder of her husband; the writing, and indeed the conception of the whole business, are fantastic, but full of Mr. Reade's peculiar power. He is, however, rather a dramatist than a storyteller. In poetry Mr. William Allingham contributes a charming song; and Mr. Robert Buchanan, a "London Lyric," "Bell from the North," than which he has, perhaps, done nothing sweeter, better, more certain to dwell in the memory. Mr. H. R. Haweis continues his Garibaldi papers, which read as if they were the reminiscences of an eye-witness; and we fancy they may be. "The Brown Bequest, by One of the Executors," is a piece of quiet satire, so well masked that at first one hardly takes the joke. "A Wedding at Kütspölon" is a delightful passage of travel-sketching; and so is "An Eastern Love Story." Mr. Anthony Trollope contributes a short story of the misfortunes of a young married man, who started in "literature" without sufficient knowledge of the work he would have to do; but, as this young gentleman had £250 clear to start with, it is not plainly made out how he came to fall into such trouble. His father ought to have been kicked: the reader who goes to the story will see why. Lastly, Mr. Alexander Smith gives us an ingenious but very unguarded essay about Mr. Sydney Dobell. Who will say all this is not a good sixpennyworth? It is the best number of the *Argosy* yet out.

In *Good Words* there is a true story of some rooks, vouched for by no less trustworthy a person than Miss Smedley. It would be a shame to tell it, but everybody should read it. The little sonnet, "Mignonette," is very good indeed; and so is this instalment of "Madonna Mary."

In the *Sunday Magazine* the "Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood" are brought to a close. There is only one known man of genius who could have written them, and I have once or twice spoken a warm word about them; but the incidents at the close of the story are very unnatural.

The *Monthly Packet* I have described before. It is a very nice high-class magazine for the young, bright with tradition, story, folk-lore and anecdote.

Aunt Judy's Magazine is good, too, but in my opinion not nearly gay enough for the young people. However, it is infinitely the best thing of its kind; and probably young folk will not be much injured by being told, on the authority of Mrs. Gatty, that Dr. Johnson was a more "clear and healthy" reasoner than anyone whose writings have come down to us since! Just think of that, now! Dr. Johnson was the man who said, among other nonsense, that genius was general power accidentally determined in a particular direction; and gave, as a reason, that a man who can walk seven miles north can walk seven miles south. Yes, but as Mr. Lewes has aptly made answer, does it follow that he can swim because he can walk? Dr. Johnson's opinions were sometimes, though rarely, right; his reasons were almost always wrong. His greatness lay in his character, and in the impressive movement of his intellect. About this there was always a gloomy greatness, as well as a reckless decisiveness, that made deep marks upon other minds; but the results arrived at were out of all proportion trivial.

The *Intellectual Observer* fully maintains the high character it

has earned. Both in its letterpress and in its illustrations it is admirable.

The *Household* is a nice little monthly. It contains a very good paper about round shoulders in young girls.

Mr. Beeton's miscellanies for ladies in general—*young ladies* in particular—and boys are capital. The criticism on Miss Austen, in the *Englishwoman's Domestic Magazine*, and a new story, just begun, by the author of "David Garrick," &c., are temptingly readable. The criticism is as good as the best now going; and the story promises well.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"The Flowers of the Forest" has been again revived at the ADELPHI. Two important alterations in the cast of this best of Mr. Buckstone's dramas have been made in the characters of Cheap John and Starlight Bess. Mr. Toole has migrated to the provinces, and as it is not in the power of Mr. Toole to be in two places at once, the part of Cheap John has been entrusted to Mr. Shaw, who played it, as well as Menelaus in "Helen," with considerable success. Mr. Shaw has a very funny face and a very funny manner, a dry quaintness of utterance and expression that will stand him in good stead in legitimate comedy and characters of actuality. Let me predict for this gentleman a very high position in that remarkable real and unreal world which is bounded on the audience side by the footlights and on the stage side by the most old-fashioned, worm-eaten, and worn-out prejudices. Starlight Bess was played with charming naïveté, energy, and intensity by Miss Furtado; indeed, this most talented and rising among our young actresses made so marked an impression that on Monday a somewhat scanty audience loudly insisted on her appearance before the curtain at the end of the drama, although the young lady coyly refused the compliment for many minutes. That such an impression should have been produced in a character so long associated with the late Mrs. Fitzwilliam is not a "step," but a "jump," for the actress, whose Brown Bess is, on the same night, as characteristic an impersonation as her Fair Helen is a bit of graceful fun.

Miss Marriott has appeared as Hamlet at the OLYMPIC. Mr. and Mrs. Billington's benefit at the ADELPHI is fixed for to-night. Indeed, to-night has several theatrical events. The NEW ROYALTY opens under the direction of Miss M. Oliver, with an extravaganza founded on the "Lady of the Lake;" and so does the SURREY, under Messrs. Shepherd and Creswick, who have once more united their energies, with the T. P. Cooke prize nautical drama of "True to the Core." On the 15th the LYCEUM opens with a new drama, by Mr. Boucicault, called "The Long Strike;" and the PRINCE OF WALES's commences its campaign with the new comedy of "Ours." On the 22nd DRURY LANE opens with "King John" and the "Comedy of Errors." A version of "Faust," adapted by Mr. Bayle Bernard, is promised shortly afterwards.

Mr. Leslie, the author of the "Mariner's Compass," has started a College of Dramatic Tuition. I shall, perhaps, best convey the idea of his scheme by quoting from his prospectus—I should say, too, that the italics are my own:—

Although it is true that no person can become a great actor or actress unless exceptionally gifted, it is not less a fact that, even in such instances, a certain amount of preliminary training must always be useful, and may in some cases be indispensable. The demand for actors and actresses of an educated class, from various causes, very far in excess of the supply. As a consequence the profession has become more respectable and more lucrative. The highest talent commands a large emolument, while students possessed merely of a general aptitude may ensure a competent income. The course of study, occupying twelve months, will comprise Elocution, Vocal Music, Stage Dancing, Fencing, and Gymnastics, taught respectively by competent and experienced masters, and also a thorough grounding in "Stage Business," imparted by Mr. Leslie himself. The business of the college will take place for the first nine months of the twelve in a central situation in the metropolis, where frequent representations will be given, the press and the friends of the pupils being invited. The remaining three months of the course will be passed in a provincial theatre, where students will have public practice with professional actors and London stars, and where the strictest discipline of a first-class establishment will be rigidly enforced.

This appears to me to be a well-grounded plan. Actors should be taught to sing, and dance, and fence before they come upon the stage. They should not study their art entirely in the theatre. They should bring with them more than the "Three Rs." Shoemaking requires an apprenticeship; surely the histrionic art is equally difficult of approach. Some are born actors, others achieve acting; and it is certain that, with good tuition and training, others may have acting thrust upon them.

RESTORATION OF ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR.—The ancient battlements on the north side of the nave and choir of the Chapel Royal of St. George, are, by order of the Dean and Chapter, being replaced with new Bath-stone work, by Messrs. Poole, of Westminster, cathedral masons. The old stone piers and ornamental tracery, upon their removal from the roof walls, were found to be in a very decayed and defective state, owing to their exposed position and the action of the weather. In the construction of the old battlements iron clamps were used for strengthening the joints; the clamps have, however, produced a contrary effect to that intended by the builders, and, as the joints between the stones became weathered, the iron clamps corroded and split and cracked the stonework in all directions, and thus materially assisted in the decay of the masonry. The old battlements on the south side of the chapel are yet standing, and that is all that can be said of them; they threaten, on the recurrence of every gale, to topple over and injure those who may happen to be walking on the path below. The stonework is absolutely rotten, and the mullions can be easily pulled out of their places without any great exertion of strength. By means of slate "dowels" the joints in the new masonry on the north side have been made more secure than could have been effected by the old clamping process, while there can be no corrosion, and consequently no bursting of the stone by the changes in the iron caused by the action of the weather.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AND THE CHOLERA DISTRICTS.—On Monday last the Bishop of London and Mrs. Tait visited St. James's, Ratcliffe, one of the poorest districts in the east of London, where the cholera has been very prevalent and fatal. His Lordship was received at the parsonage by the Incumbent and the members of the local relief committee, and proceeded to the church, which was crowded with poor people, very many of whom had suffered from cholera, either personally or in their families. Litany was said by the Rev. R. H. Atherton, the Incumbent, after which the Bishop preached a very impressive sermon. He then went into the large school-room adjoining, which was full of poor, some of them convalescents scarcely able to stand, and nearly all in want of food. The Bishop, having addressed them in words of kindness and encouragement, pronounced the benediction, after which Mrs. Tait superintended the distribution of loaves to the poor. His Lordship then visited the Mission Home, where sisters from St. Peter's Home, Brompton, and from the St. George's Mission, have been staying since the outbreak of cholera. The Bishop evinced great interest in their work, and offered up prayer for its success. Some clothes were afterwards given to the children of the ragged schools, who heartily cheered those who had cared for them. The help so promptly given by the Bishop and the Mission Home committees has powerfully aided in checking the progress of cholera; but the local committee, and others who are best acquainted with the wants of the people, fear that, as the cholera is still amongst us, it will break out again if further help should be withheld. The Incumbent is so convinced of the value of the services rendered by the Sisters that he is anxious to establish a permanent Mission Home in his parish.

THE LONDON WORKHOUSES.—Matilda Beeton, late head nurse at the Rotherhithe, Strand, and St. Mary's, Newington Workhouse Infirmary, has written to Mr. Farnall a description of the "deceit practised by workhouse officials" to hide the defects and failings of those places from the Poor-Law inspectors. She confesses that on his visit to Rotherhithe she was afraid to tell him the truth, as the master was by the inspector's side the whole time, and the master's comments on the defects pointed out by Mr. Farnall are related by the nurse. After Mr. Farnall had gone the master said, "It's all very well for Mr. Farnall to say this is right and the other wrong, but the board (of guardians) do not bind themselves to act up to his suggestions, or they might have nothing else to do." Thus "things remained pretty nearly as they were." Then, no sooner had the inspector passed the portals of the workhouse lodge than the information was sent flying through the "house," and one was sent one way and another another way to hide what ought to have been seen, the master, meanwhile, engaging the inspector's attention for a few minutes. The subordinate officers have the rod shaken over them, that if they leave one house for not making things pleasant they will not have appointments again under the Poor-Law Board. The result of the late inquiries to this witness has been that guardians and masters, though in great need of a nurse of her trustworthy character and of her great experience, refuse to engage with her, saying "they don't want to be written about to Mr. Hart." It has transpired that one master of a metropolitan workhouse stated to his board that he would resign if she were elected.

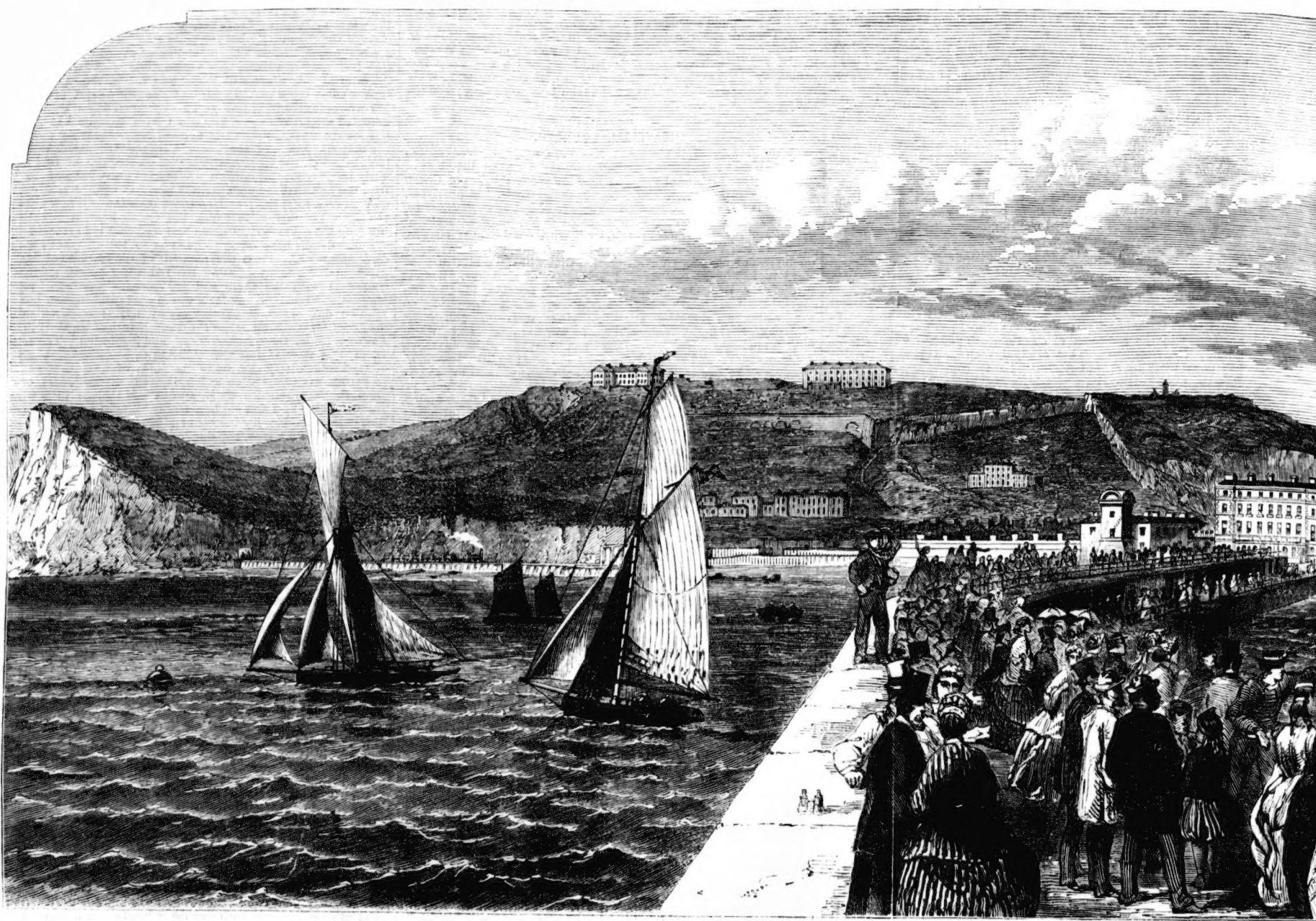
THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE OF 1865.

THE recovery of the cable of 1865 from the very lowest depths of the Atlantic, which has now been accomplished, seems to have taken the world by surprise. It is not, however, too much to say that no class of the community has felt more astonishment than those who are best acquainted with the difficulties of the task—the electricians. Few believed, with them, that a good cable could be laid across the Atlantic at all, while still fewer believed in the possibility of a broken cable being picked up from three miles' depth of water. The few who returned from last year's expedition knew that they had grappled the broken cable, and could have brought it to the surface but for the weakness of their apparatus; but it is not too much to say that many even of the directors of the Atlantic Company were incredulous on the subject, and looked on the wire of 1865 as hopelessly lost. That this opinion was almost universal may be judged from the fact that the underwriters who had insured it at once paid on it as on a total loss; and a curious question will now arise as to the amount of salvage to which the Great Eastern is entitled for bringing the cable to light again and restoring it to speech.

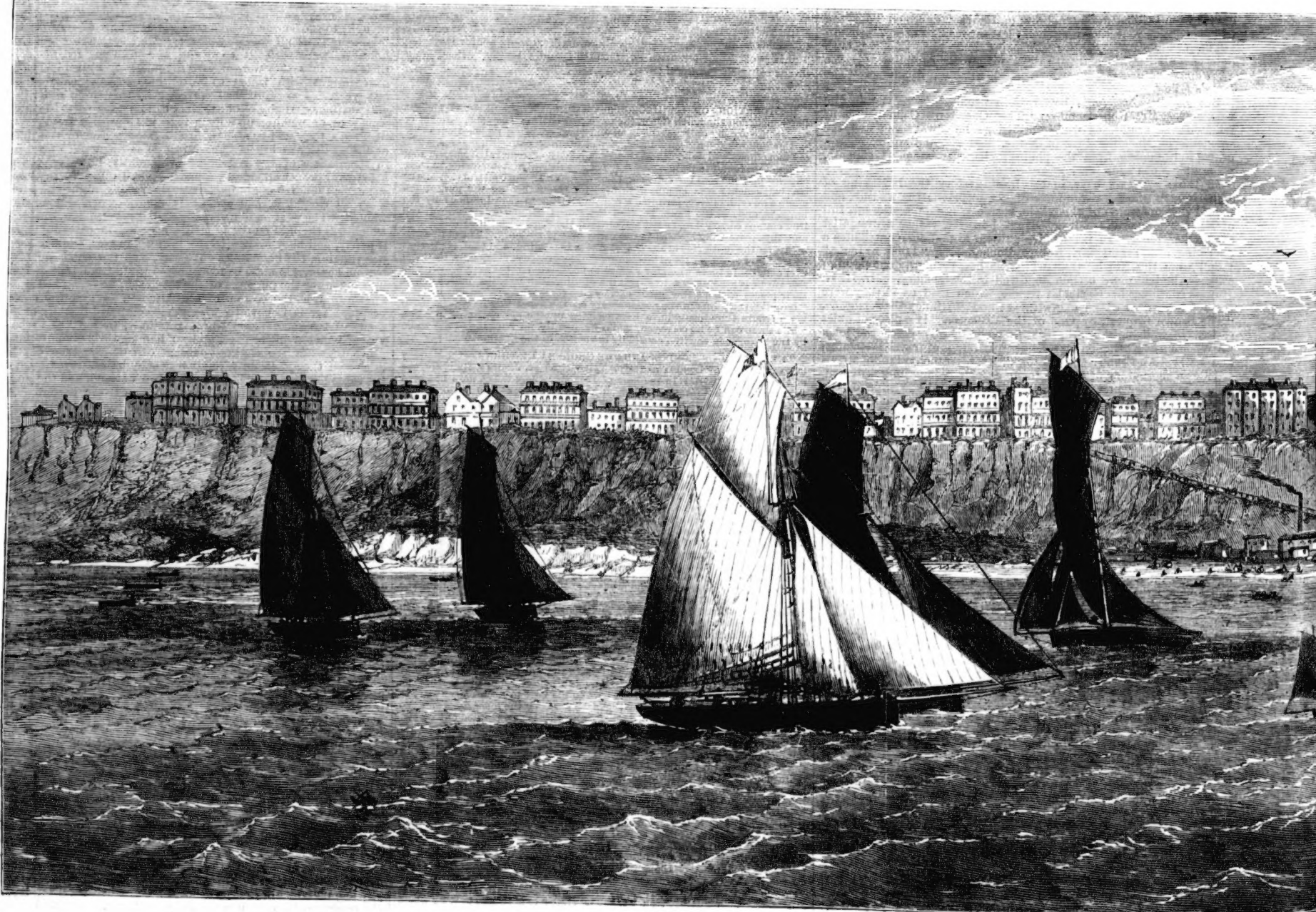
Fuller details have come to hand as to the manner in which the cable was raised. From the moment of the fracture of last year's cable till last Sunday morning the reflecting marine galvanometer connected with the shore end at Valentia has been incessantly watched. Night and day for a whole year an electrician has always been on duty watching the tiny ray of light through which signals are given, and twice every day the whole length of wire—1240 miles—has been tested for "conductivity" and insulation. The results of these tests were almost marvellous in their uniformity, and they showed conclusively that up to the point of fracture the cable was as perfect as on the day on which it left the works—apart, of course, from the improvement which always takes place in a wire submerged in the cool and uniform temperature of great ocean depths. The object of observing the ray of light was, of course, not any expectation of a message, but simply to keep an accurate record of the condition of the wire. Sometimes, indeed, wild incoherent messages from the deep did come, but these were merely the result of magnetic storms and earth currents, which deflected the galvanometer rapidly, and spelt the most extraordinary words, and sometimes even sentences of nonsense, upon the graduated scale before the mirror. Suddenly, last Sunday morning, at a quarter to six, while the light was being watched by Mr. May, he observed a peculiar indication about the light, which showed at once to his experienced eye that a message was near at hand. In a few minutes afterwards the unsteady flickering was changed to coherency, if we may use such a term, and at once the cable began to speak. Messages came with a distinctness and precision even greater than those of the cable laid this year. No repetition of a word or letter was necessary, and a few sentences of warm congratulation were at once sent back, and as quickly responded to from the Great Eastern by Mr. Canning. Both the shore ends of the last year's cable and that laid this year being in the little shanty at Foilhommerum, a message of the good news was at once sent through to Heart's Content, and a reply, wishing every good fortune to the rest of the enterprise, was sent back to Foilhommerum and transmitted to the Great Eastern in the centre of the Atlantic within a quarter of an hour. So also with messages announcing to the directors in London that the cable had been raised. These, though they can scarcely be said to have left Ireland before seven o'clock, were delivered in the metropolis before nine, and return messages went back to the Great Eastern before mid-day.

Now as to raising the cable itself. Only those acquainted with telegraphic expeditions know the dismay caused by the report, like that of a cannon, as the weights of the dynamometer fall, when the cable parts and the wire leaps up over the stern of the ship and disappears like a flash in the depths of the ocean. Such an accident in the beginning of submarine telegraphy was supposed to be fatal and irreparable even if it occurred in only 300 fathoms of water. The science of laying cables, however, has progressed with a rapidity almost commensurate with electricity itself; and within the last ten years cable after cable has been raised for repair from such gradually increasing depths that now 1000 fathoms is considered, comparatively speaking, shoal water in which to grapple for a wire. Last year, after the cable parted, it was grappled successfully many times; but, as the machinery was too weak, it was never brought to the surface, and of course the fact of its ever having been caught at all was disbelieved. Messrs. Canning and Clifford, however, were perfectly confident, and, as their records bore out their assertions, they were allowed to make proper machinery of their own designs with which to raise the cable which was broken last year. The result has proved that they were right in their anticipations. If any of our readers can imagine what the difficulty would be of picking up a little rope in Cheapside from the top of St. Paul's, they will be able to form a faint notion of the difficulty of lifting the wire lost last year in three miles' depth of water and in the middle of the Atlantic. Apparently, however, the ships, fitted with proper apparatus, found no more difficulty in grappling the cable than one might experience in raising night-lines for eels. They all caught it, and caught it almost when and where they wanted. The weather was very rough, but nevertheless the Medway, which was the first on the ground, succeeded in catching it, raising it partly, and buoying it. In the night, however, while a heavy sea was running, the buoy ropes gave way, and the cable went to the bottom again. It must be remembered that, from repeated soundings taken for the purposes of the telegraph, no ocean bed is so well known to us as the bottom of the Atlantic. Where the cable was grappled for it is covered with a soil composed literally of minute shells of the diatomaceæ tribe, so minute, in fact, as to be only visible under a microscope, and so fine in their organisation as to prove that not the slightest motion can exist at those depths, for otherwise their delicate formation would be destroyed. On these the cable has lain harmlessly as on a bed of sand, and the grapnels, as we have said, at once caught it. The Great Eastern and the Medway did not arrive on the searching-ground till the 12th of the month, and, after preliminary arrangements had been made for working in concert, the Great Eastern, on the evening of the 15th, caught and raised the cable more than 500 fathoms. In the act of buoying it, the buoy rope slipped, and it was again lost. On the second day she caught it again, and this time brought it to the surface. In the act of bringing it over the bows the grapnel surged, and the wire again plunged down to its resting-place, three miles beneath the ships. Once more, within two days, it was raised by the Great Eastern, while the Albany, to the west, caught and broke it, and all the work had to be begun again. On the 26th the Medway caught it and brought it up 1000 fathoms, when, the sea being rough and the strain on the grapnel sudden and violent from the pitching of the vessel, the rope broke. On the evening of the same day, however, the Albany caught it again, and brought it to the surface, and the Great Eastern, to "make assurance doubly sure," got two miles of it on board and securely buoyed what was outside the vessel. The work of making the splice at once commenced, but not where the wire was fastened to the buoy. The Great Eastern, on the contrary, underran the wire to a considerable distance to the east in order to get rid of the tangle in which the different buoy and grapnel ropes must have involved its western extremity. After this necessary process, some eighty miles of the wire were abandoned.

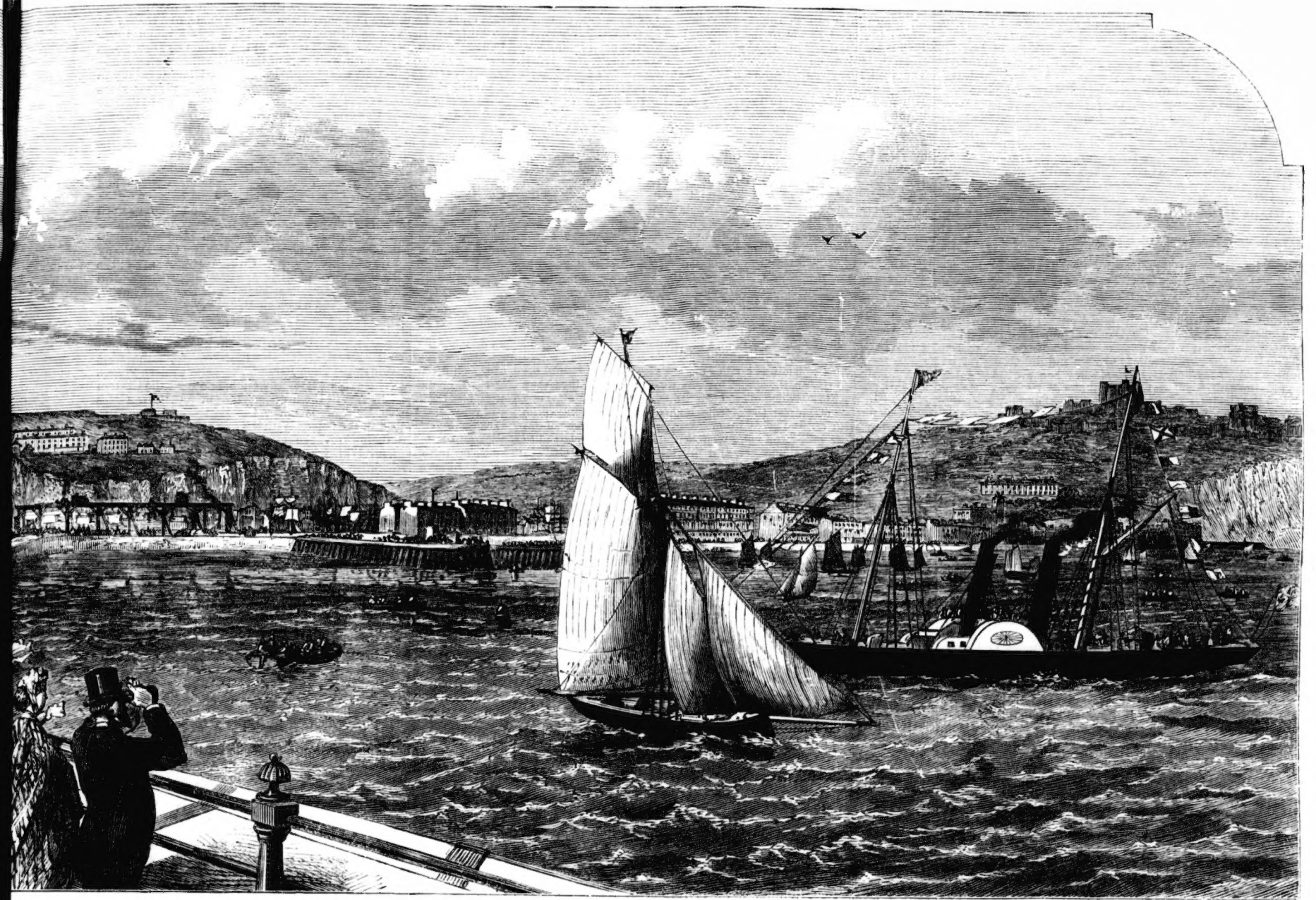
The Great Eastern has now about four more days' steaming to bring her safely into Heart's Content. Already she has passed the deepest water on her route; in fact, the very deepest water she can encounter was that from which she has raised the cable of last year. All fear, therefore, as to the safety of the line may be considered at an end, and by to-morrow at latest the shareholders will be in possession of two perfect lines. How much they may be congratulated on this may be guessed from the fact that their present line, which is steadily increasing in its returns, is already earning money at the rate of £900,000 a year. No one will grudge them their profits, for no one can deny them the credit which is due to their unflinching determination in the face of years of loss and failure. If there be any one individual to whom more than another the chief credit of the enterprise belongs, it is certainly Mr. Glass.



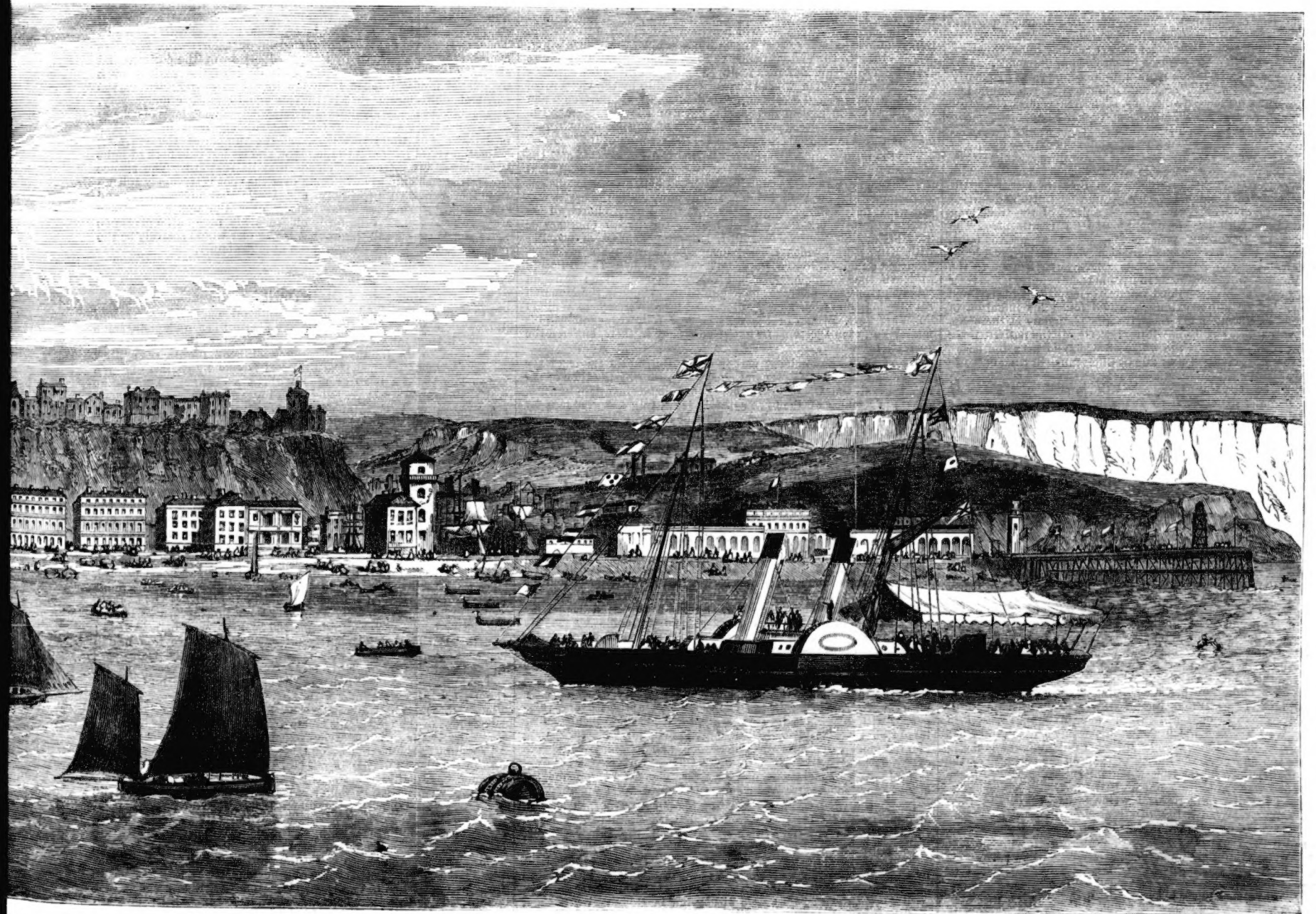
THE TOWN AND



THE TOWN OF



OUR OF DOVER.



STONE.

DOVER.

THE name of Dover—the Dubrae of the Roman, the Dofra of the Saxon, and Dovere of Domesday—is derived from the Celtic Dur, water; a word which appears in the Adur of Sussex, Adour of northern Spain, Dovar of Ireland, Adder of Scotland, and Douro in Portugal. The town is seventy-two miles E.S.E. from London, and forty miles E. by S. from Maidstone. "The treatise of Dover," said Old Lambard, three hundred years ago, "shall consist of three special members—that is to say, the town, the castle, and the religious buildings." Since that period, while several churches, towers, and gates have disappeared, the castle and town have been enlarged, and present an aspect far more imposing or agreeable than they did in the days of the worthy perambulator. "Not without good cause," he observes, "hath Dover by great pre-eminence been reputed the chief of the Five Ports assigned by laws of Parliament as a special place for passage and exchange, and by ancient tenure acknowledged for lady and mistress of so many manors."

To the admirer of Shakspeare, and that includes every true English heart, its interest is heightened as the scene of some exquisite passages in "King Lear." On the cliffs were pitched the tents of the French and the camp of the British forces, the place of Cordelia's death.

The history of the town is romantic, its situation beautiful; with its back to the cliff and its face to the foe, it stands on a shore bending inland with a graceful curve, and at the gorge of a fertile valley, whose green verdure and groups of fine trees are enhanced by the magnificent heights, with ramparts and a citadel rising over long lines of fortification on the east. On the west are three bold bluff precipices, of different aspect and colour; the slender outline of the guardhouse on the middlemost, and of the Foreland lighthouse on the most distant, close out the horizon; and a wavy background of hills, with soft gradations of tone, as they swell one above the other far away, faint as the shadows of transparent grey that lie across the waters beneath the cliffs. In strong relief, nearer and taller, rise the chalky cliffs, crowned with the towers, the ancient church, the ramparts, and the central keep of the historic castle. Hence ran the old couplet, alluding to the bold bowmen, England's unrivalled infantry in times of old—

England were but a fife,
But for the crooked stick and grey goose wing.

No town in England presents a more brilliant perspective, or imposing and grand landscape. The deep blue murmuring sea is here marvellously clear, and ordinarily calm, with its thousand smiles, as the Greek read it, and lies between the rival shores like a vast expanse of burnished silver. Only eighteen miles intervene between the pier head and Cape Grisnez, which is 300 ft. high. The undulating hills of France break the unbounded range of sky and water, which would otherwise fatigue and satiate the eye. The northern coast gleams in the broad blaze of sunshine so distinct and clear that the indentations of the fields and deep rifts of the white cliffs, the markings of the country inland, the white houses and dark shadowy outlines of the tower of the Hotel de Ville, Notre Dame, and the Phare of Calais, with the Column of Napoleon and the dome of the Cathedral of Boulogne, are easily discernible. During the daytime the harbour and roads are full of animation and life: the pilot steamers, and the famous Dover luggers, models of naval architecture, and so picturesque under sail, are on the watch in the offing to take the guidance of their valuable charges; while numberless vessels pass through the Straits—their white sails like huge swans—the trim men of war, the laden transport, the timber-freighted barque from the Baltic, the ships from the northern seas or glowing tropics. This moving panorama, with the departure and arrival of the foreign steamers, renders the scene unequalled for gaiety, variety, and interest. In calms, or during the prevalence of foul winds, long lines of vessels, range beyond range, cover the whole sea. When, at length, the favourable breeze begins to blow, whole fleets sweep by, sometimes to the number of 500, sail after sail, with snowy canvas reflecting the golden sunlight, the tiniest glittering afar off like a pale star in the twilight. Nor is the evening less striking at Dover, when the windows in the amphitheatre, which bends along the base of the cliffs and rises gradually from the harbour, begin to be kindled with lamp and fire from the hearthside; the bugles of the troops on the heights then begin blithely to sound the retreat, and are answered by the roll of drums from the castle; or the music of the full band, playing before the officers' quarters, peals fitfully and softly across the waters as they heave in broad glistening swells under a calm, cloudless moonlight, rippling in with the tide like a flood of diamonds.

There never was an assertion more unfounded, or more frequently repeated, than that which, on Caesar's authority, represents our British forefathers as mere barbarians. The stupendous circles of Stonehenge and Avebury, the cromlechs and other monuments, prove them to have been no mean mechanicians; their armies possessed sharp iron weapons and the war-chariot, sufficient to mow down the legions; the Wansdyke was one of their military works; they constructed the roads now traceable within the extent of Wiltshire downs or along the Berkshire hills. The fleets of Carthage, till within a century of Caesar's invasion, trafficked in tin and carried home corn. The dress of Boadicea offers a proof of the trade long after maintained with the merchants of the Continent. The golden coins of Cunobelin now extant attest a native mint. They had ships, laws, a priesthood, an elective monarchy, and hereditary chieftains. The reinforcements sent by the Britons to the people of Vannes provoked Caesar to invade their country; and their heroic resistance, their determined valour, their spirit of liberty, and their knowledge of military tactics, which foiled his intention of landing here, exasperated his hatred. His testimony is, therefore, the more valuable as it is unwilling:—"Of all the natives, those who inhabit Kent, a district the whole of which is near the coast, are by far the most civilised, and do not differ much in their customs from the Gauls."

On Aug. 26, 55 B.C., Caesar embarked the infantry of the seventh and tenth legions, about 8000 to 10,000 men, at Witsand, between Calais and Boulogne. At ten a.m., after a slow passage of ten hours, two galleys and eighty smaller vessels appeared off the haven of Dover. To his amazement, the cliffs swarmed with armed troops; and at three p.m., satisfied with his empty demonstration, he sailed for the level, open beach of Deal, being reinforced with eighteen transports containing his cavalry, which had been wind-bound. He mentions the quick and uncertain surf.

A kind of conquest
Caesar made here, but made not here his brag
Of "came and saw and overcame;" with shame,
The first that ever touched him, he was carried
From off our coast twice beaten, and his shipping—
Poor ignorant baubles!—on our terrible seas,
Like egg-shells moved upon their surges, cracked
As easily 'gainst our rocks.

It is certain that from this date until the reign of Claudius the Romans left Kent and Britain alone. The conquerors of the world, however, made here a highway for the preaching of the kingdom of peace. According to ancient belief, it would seem that one greater than St. Augustine, one of the Twelve, or the Apostle of the Gentiles, taught on these shores. The local tradition of an early foundation of a church in the castle points to the same fact. It is stated that, on the departure of Caesar, Mandubratius was appointed receiver of Roman tribute at Dover; and Arviragus*, son of Cymbeline, who succeeded, A.D. 43, on his father's death in battle, strengthened the castle hill, then a British camp, and raised a sea-bank across the mouth of the haven, to prevent the entrance of the Roman ships into this key of Clas Merdon, "the sea-defended green spot," for such was the Celtic name of Britain.

As the sea receded from the south side of the valley and from Charlton, Dover received a line of strong fortifications, consisting of walls in the shape of an irregular triangle and several towers. On the south face were the Fishery or Postern-gate, with a bridge built by Mayor Garret; Butchery-gate, destroyed 1819; Severus-gate, of which the foundations near the new bridge remain (it

fronted Bench-street, and was removed 1800); Snar, or Pier-gate, under the cliff (destroyed 1595, the site of the old Custom House), with a square tower. On the east side were Adrian or Upwall-gate, near the Roman cemetery, leading up to the western heights, the foundations of which exist; Cow-gate, or Common-gate (through which the cows passed to the common), in Queen-street, destroyed 1776; St. Martin's or Monks-gate, and North or Biggin-gate, through which the Roman Watling-way passed (destroyed 1752). The wall then continued along the north-west side of St. Mary's graveyard, and turning sharply at right angles, passed by Stembrook Mill and Dolphin-lane to Postern-gate. In the cellar of No. 7 in the lane are some portions of the Roman masonry.

In the reign of Constantine a garrison of Tungrians was placed here; in the reign of Valentinian the Legion II^a Augusta was quartered here; and in that of Theodosius a cohort, or battalion, the headquarters of the British Legion, 1100 strong, was stationed at Dover, 346-7. King Withred of Kent, 688-718, drew a curtain from the Postern-gate to the East Cliff, and thus completely fortified the town on the seaboard. This wall contained St. Helen's, near which stood a cross and Eastbrook Gates, the foundations of which remain. The latter adjoined St. James's Church. To its strength Dover owed its immunity from attack by Saxon invader or Danish pirate. In the time of King Alfred the inhabitants had formed a guild to raise ships for the King's Navy. In the reign of Edward the Confessor their contribution was twenty sail, with twenty-one seamen each, for fifteen days together. The town had no moat and was about a mile square.

In 1048, the castle and town being under the constablership of the great Earl Godwin, Eustace, Count of Boulogne and husband of Goda, the King's sister, arrived in England. On his return by way of Canterbury, when but a few miles distant from Dover, he and his knights donned their harness, and took by force what lodgings they chose. In the affray which ensued, an injured inhabitant slew one of these foreign offenders; the Normans flew to arms and killed the townsman, with about twenty other persons, but lost nineteen out of their number killed and more wounded. Eustace complained to his brother-in-law at Gloucester, and Edward ordered Earl Godwin to wreak a cruel vengeance on Dover. That brave nobleman armed in defence of his townsmen, and eventually took the field to demand either the surrender of the coward Eustace or a fair trial of the whole case. Edward not only refused to make any concession, but, with the countenance of his nobles, banished Earl Godwin and his sons from the realm.

Guy of Amiens relates that the men of Dover, seeing their helpless position, on the advance of William of Normandy, sent their keys to the Duke while he was halting during five days after the Battle of Hastings. However, on his arrival, when the garrison hesitated to surrender, some Norman knights, eager for spoil, fired the town, and it was reduced to ashes, with the exception of twenty-nine houses. William ordered immediate compensation for the loss, and furnished the inhabitants with money sufficient to rebuild their homes.

Domesday Book furnishes us with this graphic account of the town:—"Dover, in the time of King Edward, rendered £18, of which sum King Edward had two portions and Earl Godwin a third. Besides this the Canons of St. Martin's had another moiety. The burgesses provided twenty ships for the Monarch, once each year, for fifteen days, and in each ship were twenty-one men. (In 1393 Dover furnished fifty-seven ships above sixty tons burden, each with a master and twenty men, for fifteen days.) They rendered this service because the King had liberated them from sac and soc (i. e., fines, and suit, and court). When the messengers of the King came to this port, they paid 3d. in winter and 2d. in summer for the transport of a horse; but the burgesses found a pilot and another assistant; and, if more were required, they were furnished at the Royal expense. From the festival of St. Michael to St. Andrew's Day, the King's peace was established in the town: whoever violated this, the superintendent of the King received the common forfeiture. Every resident inhabitant who paid the Royal custom was quit of toll throughout the realm of England. All these customs existed when King William came to this country. At his first arrival this town was destroyed by fire, and therefore its value could not be estimated nor ascertained when the Bishop of Bayeux received it. At the present time it is valued at £40; yet the Mayor pays £54. In Dover there are twenty-nine mansions, of which the King has lost the Royal customary payments. William Fitz-Geoffrey has three, one of which was a Guildhall of Burgesses. Robert of Westerham erected a certain house upon the King's water, and has held to the present period the Royal customs. This house did not exist in King Edward's reign. There is a mill at the entrance of the harbour, which wrecks almost every ship by the violence of the tide's current and occasions great damage to the Sovereign and his subjects. It existed not in the days of the Confessor. The nephew of Herbert declares that the Bishop of Bayeux granted permission to his uncle Herbert Fitz-Ivo for the erection of it."

The town grew under the rule of the martial Bishop Odo and the Norman knights. Hitherto the garrison chapel of the castle and the Saxon minster of St. Martin's-le-Grand had afforded sufficient accommodation for the inhabitants; but now, while the castle was girt with fortifications of great extent, the Priory church of St. Martin's New Work was erected, besides the parish churches of St. Mary and St. James. In 1091 St. Anselm, wearied of disputes with King Rufus, which seemed incapable of mutual adjustment, proposed an appeal to the Pope, but was refused the Royal license to leave the kingdom. He had taken his resolution: he again sought permission, and was again denied it. He gave the Monarch his blessing, and then secretly proceeded for Dover, where William de Warelwast, Bishop of Exeter, who had followed, examined his mails; but, says Diceto, as he found no money in them, suffered the Primate to embark.

Dover played a prominent part in events during the reigns of the Plantagenet and Tudor Monarchs, as well as during the time of the Stuarts and the Commonwealth. The French invasion, in 1295, dealt the fortunes of the town a deadly blow, followed gradually by the decay of the haven, the suppression of the religious houses, and the loss of Calais. "By the reign of Elizabeth it was brought," says Lambard, "to miserable nakedness and decay," although the victualling of the Royal ships contributed some advantage to the inhabitants. In an intercepted letter, dated Calais, Nov. 23, 1587, from Ingram Thewyng to Hugh Owen, at Dunkirk, it is suggested that letters conveying intelligence of affairs in England, where there was a general rising, should be laid in a cleft of a rock at Dover, and answers from abroad placed in their stead. Captain Thomas Mosset, in a humorous letter to Sir Francis Walsingham, tells him of a Spaniard who had laid out his whole estate to furnish a ship for the Armada, but, falling sick, was unable to sail in her. On his recovery the Don came in a pinnace, with an appointment from the Spanish King to be made Constable of Dover Castle, as he thought it was high time for England to be a vassal fief of Spain. It would be a curious coincidence could we identify the Don's ship with that mighty galleon of the Spanish fleet which was beguiled into the shallows and burned by the men of Dover.

In 1635 Dover is thus described:—"This long town is indifferently well built, more especially about the Market-place, where they have a fair Townhall built, with two squares and twenty wooden arches, wherein Mr. Mayor, with his white staff of authority and three maces, with his whole jury of jurats, sits to execute justice. The inhabitants are English, French, and Dutch, for whom there are two churches to perform their devotions, and as many captains to execute their arms with." The Prize Office, in 1666, was removed from Dover to the London district. Sir Thomas Peyton and the other Commissioners received a compensation of £500 a piece.

Beside the Western Pharos, the Templars' Preceptory, the Chapel of our Lady of Pity, the Maison-Dieu, with a truncated spire on the tower, the spires of St. John's Church, the Priory Church, St. Martin's-le-Grand, and St. Mary's, and the steeples of St. Nicholas, Bench-street, and St. Peter's, Market-place, two round towers, built by Clark, in the reign of Henry VII., A.D. 1498, were conspicuous objects in the times of the Tudors. In 1798 the foundations of one, with a great mooring-ring, were discovered in Round Tower-street. The defences of the port were the Archcliff and Black Bulwarks.

The present basin is marked as the Grand Parade; it also bore the name of the Great Paradise. Holinshed thus accounts for this singular title:—"In a sudden flaw or storm of wind at S.E. there hath been seven or eight ships broken all to pieces in one day upon the said cliffs. To relieve and amend the same harbour, and somewhat to mitigate the aforesaid inconvenience, there was a round tower built by one John Clarke priest, master of the Maison de Dieu, about the year 1500, on the south-west part of the bay, which served somewhat to defend ships from the rage of the S.W. wind, but especially to moor the ships, which were tied thereunto. For many great rings were fastened to the same tower, for that hereby that part of the bay was made so pleasant as ever after that corner hath been named, and is at this day called, 'Little Paradise.'" Two fortified jetties projected into the sea; and a curtain, with five embrasures, connected the westernmost with a tower of two stories. Another later view represents the old Custom-house, with its platform paved with stone, and mounted with four pieces of ordnance, a penniless bench, and the merchants meeting on Change, as was their wont, between eleven and one o'clock. It bore the name of the Three Gun Battery until 1799, when the Corporation sold the site and materials to the inhabitants, who undertook to build the new bridge between Bench-street and Waterloo-crescent. A house erected at the Old Dock, by Arnold Braems, in 1662, became the Custom House after the Restoration. In 1806 it gave place to the present structure. An old house of the seventeenth century adjoined it, with quaint gables, pilasters, twisted chimneys, and a rich entablature.

In Buck's map, 1739, Shakspeare's Cliff appears as Arch Cliff. The Archcliff Fort is mounted with four guns; a drawbridge, with an almshouse adjoining it on the south, leads to the Pent; a rope-walk extends along the beach. Slightly withdrawn from the crest of the cliff, on the side of the Drop Redoubt, was the western Pharos of the Romans. To the west of Butchery Gate, and next the Custom House, is the Bench, a fort of three guns. Biggin and Cow Gates still remain. Moat's Bulwark is under the East Cliff. As late as 1762 St. Mary's stood in the fields. With the exception of a bowling-alley on the beach, dating from the reign of Charles I., there was no house on the shore till 1791, when the father of Sir Sidney Smith (whose night attacks upon the French coast often startled his fellow-townsmen in after years) built Smith's Folly, a curious imitation of a fort, roofed with inverted boats, near the castle jetty. In 1778 and 1780 Acts were passed for paving and lighting the town. In 1822 gas was introduced, and in 1835 an Act provided for further improvements. The next house erected was called, after the then Lord Warden, Liverpool House. The Marine-parade, Liverpool-terrace, with the houses under the East Cliff, were commenced in 1817; and Guildford and Clarence lawns begun shortly afterwards. The Esplanade, in 1833, and Waterloo-crescent, in 1834, were the next important additions. Camden-crescent was built in 1840. In 1852 the Quays were added round the Pent. It only remains to remark that the picture-que Snargate-street (in Saxon meaning "the hewn way") derives its name from a village in Romney Marsh.

The completion of the magnificent pier may be said to have been the greatest event which has occurred in Dover during the present century, and it has to a considerable extent altered the aspect of all that side of the town where it is situated—the side where alteration was most needed. The construction of the new barracks and all those wonderful buildings which belong to the garrison beyond the original fortifications, has been a vast and a successful work, but it has had less influence on Dover itself and its institutions than the formation of the splendid promenade formed by the upper pier, and the communication of the railway with the lower quay or platform, where the steam-vessels for mails and passengers lie directly alongside what may be called the transit terminus. It is a wonderful view, that vast stretch of white, grass-topped cliff rising height above height, and the town lying below it, its queer, zigzag streets and steep stone-floated terraces straggling at the foot of the most remarkable natural fortification in the world. But there was never such an opportunity of seeing it to advantage as is now enjoyed by the visitor who has taken a brisk walk to that clean, spray-sprinkled pier-head, where he feels the fresh sea-breeze, and, with the lapping waves on each side, can turn and survey the whole rugged coast from Shakspeare's Cliff to the hills behind the new town.

To the robust tourist, who can stand the keen night air, a more extraordinary sight is obtained when the night train comes rumbling and shrieking along that lower pier, where the sporting steamer awaits the passengers who cross the Channel with the mails. Then, as the lurid lights come gliding on in their awful, resistless course, they are answered by the pale lanterns of the porters, and sudden gleams shoot about the dark deck of the packet, or a red gust of fire is belched from the funnel to be reflected in the cloud of white steam that is the prelude to getting under way. Strange and fantastic shadows alternate with sudden glares of colour; and amidst the trampling of feet, the subdued calls of men, the exclamations of timid travellers, and the rumble of the returning train, the vessel recedes into the night, and its last pale fleck of light is swallowed up in the dun clouds that lie seaward. The silence that seems suddenly to have come over the spot is strangely solemn from its contrast with the noise and bustle that preceded it; and the spectator who has been leaning over the upper balustrade watching the scene involuntarily quickens his pace as he gives one more glance round, and thinks that Dover pier would scarcely be the place on which to pass a night, even at midsummer.

FOLKSTONE.

FOLKSTONE, the subject of a delightful paper in *Household Words* some years since, has been the puzzle to etymologists, some deiving it from fairies' stone, the people's stone, or the broken stone, in allusion to its falling cliffs. "Break-neck flights of stairs," Dickens writes, "connect the principal streets by backways. We are at low water a heap of mud without a channel. Looking at trains, steam-boats, sick travellers, and luggage is our great Pavilion-stone recreation." Folkstone contained only 120 houses in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and until the formation of the railway it continued to be an insignificant fishing-town; although at the Domesday survey it boasted five churches. "Streets, lanes, and alleys," writes Ingoldsby, "are here fanciful distinctions without a difference, agreeable enough to persons who do not mind running up and down stairs." In 1809, a harbour, with piers of rubble-stone, including fourteen acres, was formed by a joint-stock company, under the superintendence of Telford. In 1844 the shingle was removed, and the harbour rendered available as a safe port by Peter W. Barlow, the railway engineer. A line of rock, 14 ft. under low water, reaches across to Boulogne. In 1831 the population numbered 2300 persons; in 1841, 2400; in 1851 it had increased to 7500. The Customs, since the establishment of the Boulogne steamers, show a similar increase, having been in 1847, £4000; 1848, £8218; in 1849, £42,260; and in the first six months of the following year, £41,316. A harbour-house, with a campanile 100 ft. high, was built in 1843; and the Pavilion Hotel shortly after. The movable iron bridge connecting the inner and outer basins, across which the trains pass to the terminus station on the shore, cost £80,000.

The market-house was built, in the early part of the century, by the Earl of Radnor; and a new church, Christ Church (W. C. Powell, P.C.), in 1851, by Smirke, at the cost of the present Earl, who is lord of the manor: his eldest son bearing the title of Viscount Folkestone. Sir Eliab Harvey founded the Free School in 1674. Folkstone was the birthplace of Dr. Harvey, the eminent discoverer of the circulation of the blood (1578), and of John Philpot, the antiquary. In 1815 a battery of four guns stood near the church. The Bail, a corruption of Bailey, a court or wall, is the only relic of an ancient castle built by William D'Avranches, Earl of Arundel and Sussex. The church of St. Eanswitha (M. Woodward, V.), standing on a hill 575 ft. high, has a central tower, in which are eight bells. The western part of the nave was blown down in December, 1705. The sailors used to call it the Hurricane House, from its exposed situation. The chancel is of sandstone, Early English, and in the north wall has a decorated altar tomb with the effigy of a knight, said to be a Fiennes, a Sandwich, or Seagrave! In the south aisle are two kneeling effigies of knights (Herdsons, 1622): the font

Juvenal mentions him—
Aut de temore Britanno
Excidit Arviragus.

is Perpendicular. W. Langhorne, co-translator of "Plutarch's Lives," was Vicar of the parish, and buried in this church, 1772. From Folkestone Louis Napoleon sailed when, landing with his tame eagle at Boulogne, he was speedily transmitted to safe keeping in the towers of Ham. Whittings are called in Kent rumbolds, after the Irish saint whose name is given to Mechlin cathedral. In former years the fishermen invariably set apart the eight finest whittings out of the net, and applied the money arising from their sale to a supper called "Rumbold" on Christmas Eve.

At Deal there is a flat coast, backed by barren, undulating chalk downs, frequently dotted with Anglo-Saxon barrows, and running inland to Canterbury. From Walmer to Dover the coasts presents high cliffs, with samphire growing profusely on their faces. Where they end abruptly—on their spur, in fact—stands Dover Castle, whilst another ridge of chalk-hills branches off inland. The valley of Dover intervenes; but on the other side, to the west, the cliffs reappear, and when they approach Folkestone, about a mile to the eastward, a second parallel ridge runs inland, as at Dover, the two ranges inclosing a wooded and well-watered valley. At this point begins a series of conical hills covered with barrows or intrenchments. The first is the Sugar Loaf, with an ancient road on the hill-side, and a large, low barrow on the summit; below is a Roman cemetery. The next is Caesar's Camp, which forms three lines of intrenchment, covering two acres; in the innermost, or Castle Hill, at a mile and a half north, an oval, like that at Dover Castle, probably stood a Roman pharos. Behind the camp is a half-conical hill, with a taxon barrow; and then occurs another conical hill.

At Folkestone the two parallel ranges of sand and chalk which traverse a great part of Surrey and Kent approach within two miles of each other and terminate—the sand ridge tapering off in a fort of flat on the sea side. The uplands are barren, but the valleys consist of meadows watered by numerous springs. "To the south of the hill, which is full a mile high, the land," Cobbett observes, "is a poor, thin, white loam; then a very fine rich loam upon the chalk, till it mingles the chalky with the sandy loam; and thus it goes on down to the sea-beach or to the edge of the cliff. Upon the hill begins and continues for some miles a stiff red loam approaching to a clay."

THE RELATIVE LOSSES OF THE AUSTRIANS AND PRUSSIAN.—Anyone who desires to form an opinion of the part played in the late Austro-Prussian contest by the respective armies of the two Powers has only to look at the return of the prisoners on each side. The exchange, as agreed upon by the terms of the Preliminaries of Peace, was effected, at Oderberg, on Monday, Aug. 27. On one side were released 523 Austrian officers and 35,036 rank and file; while about 13,000 Austrian prisoners were still left behind in the Prussian hospitals, their wounds not allowing their removal. On the other side, Austria gave up 7 Prussian officers and 450 non-commissioned officers and men. About 120, severely wounded, remained behind in Austrian hands. Anything more significant could scarcely be set before the reader. 48,539 Austrian prisoners against 577 Prussians—that is, rather more than 83 to 1. But there is more. The total loss of the Austrians, between killed, wounded, prisoners, and missing, is computed at about 90,000, so that the number of prisoners exceeds one half the total loss. The men who were reported killed, or who died of their wounds, are stated to be about 16,000; the wounded who still survive are, therefore, about 25,440, and of these 13,000—that is, a little more than one half—are in Prussian hands. Of the remaining 12,000 not a few must belong to the category of the missing. The total loss of the Prussians during the campaign is given at 21,980. Of these 2815 are reported killed, 6118 severely wounded, 10,131 wounded, and 2925 missing. As of the last a great number have since returned, the total Prussian loss may be reduced to 20,000, of whom the 10,000 wounded are in progress of recovery. But, allowing the two original numbers to stand, we find that, while the general Austrian loss is 90,000, and that of the Prussians 21,980—that is, 4.5-6 to 1, the ratio of prisoners is, as we have said, 83 to 1.

WEALTH OF THE SMALL FARMERS OF IRELAND.—The tenant-farmers in Ireland holding from thirty to one hundred acres have the bulk of £17,000,000 lodged on deposit in the banks. How unlike the farmers in England and Scotland, who invest their capital in the cultivation of their ground! The Irish farmers prefer getting 2 to 5 per cent, as the case may be, on deposit receipts, or lending it at 5 or 6 per cent to needy proprietors. Instead of using it on the best bank in the world—that of the tillage and improvement of their farms. In these farms about one half is in grass, and the other half very badly cultivated; in those of 100 to 200 acres, only one third is in tillage; of 200 to 500, about one fifth; and over 500, only one ninth. Now, when we come to English and Scotch farms—of lands naturally not so fertile as those in Ireland—we find the greatest contrast—two fifths being in grain, one fifth in turnips and potatoes, and two fifths in pasture of one and two years old only a dozen acres being in permanent grass, which is generally the system in East Lothian and Berwickshire, and in Norfolk, Lincoln, and Northumberland, differing each a little, according to the soil. In Ireland 5,664,487 acres were tilled, while 9,757,518 were in grass, in 1863; the consequence of the increase of grass and decrease of tillage is want of employment for the people, and an average payment for foreign grain in 1860, 1861, 1862, and 1863, of £7,000,000 a year, or £28,000,000 for four years, which might be kept at home if the lands were cultivated as they are in the eastern counties of England and Scotland—a country whose agriculturists cannot long bear the payments of £7,000,000 a year without being impoverished. When we contrast a 600-acre farm in Roscommon, Tipperary, or Meath, with an expenditure on labour of £60 a year for herds and boys, and a similar farm in East Lothian, where £1400 are paid in wages, and £1400 in guano and other manures, we find one cause for emigration of the people and the importation of grain.—*Stigo Independent.*

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BEAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read, a reward of £6 10s. was voted to the crew of the institution's life-boat at Lytham, for assisting to a safe anchorage the French brigantine *Jeune Françoise*, which was in a very dangerous position near the Salthouse Bank, during a heavy gale of wind, on the 4th ult. A reward of £6 was also granted to the crew of the Fraserburgh life-boat, for putting off, in reply to signals of distress, and rescuing the crew of five men of the lugger *Betsy Ann*, of Port Gordon, N.B., which vessel had lost all her sails, and was driving towards the dangerous reef of Cairn Bulg Briggs, during a severe gale from N.W.W., on the 4th ult. It was also reported that the Blakeney life-boat was instrumental, on the 11th ult., in bringing safely into harbour a pilot-coble and her crew of three men. The boat was observed about a mile to the westward of the harbour, the crew being afraid to cross the bar in the very heavy sea running at the time. Whilst in tow of the life-boat the coble was nearly capsized as they went in. Rewards amounting to £17 5s. 6d. were likewise voted to defray the expenses of the Walmer and North Deal life-boats in going out, while the wind was blowing hard from the west, with the view of rescuing the crew of the ship *North*, of Liverpool, which was wrecked on the south end of the Goodwin Sands on the 30th ult. Rewards amounting to £46 11s. 6d. were also voted to the crews of the life-boats of the institution stationed at Selsey, New Brighton, Scarborough, and Calshot, and to those of shore boats for various services during the past month. The institution decided on sending to the Paris Universal Exhibition some of its best models of life-boats and various apparatus for saving life from shipwreck. New life-boat stations were ordered to be formed at the entrance to Chichester Harbour (West Wittering), Stromness, N.B., and Douglas, Isle of Man, the local residents promising cordial support to the undertakings. During the past month various liberal contributions had been received by the institution, and amongst them was the munificent sum of £343 from the Ancient Order of Foresters, contributed in sums of one penny and upwards. Legacies had been received during the past month from the executors of the late Mrs. Sarah Small, of Brighton, £76 7s. 6d.; the late Mrs. McGregor, of Camberwell, £43; and the late John Barnard, Esq., of Walworth, £10. The Rev. John Buckle had also sent the society £7 7s. 6d. being the amount realised after a lecture he had recently delivered at Ledbury on its behalf. A grand fancy fair had been held in the Zoological Gardens, Clifton, under the auspices of the Bristol Historic Club, to assist in defraying the cost of a life-boat, to be named the Bristol and Clifton. The institution sanctioned standard barometers being placed at Sidmouth, Sheringham, Swansea, and Sunderland. Each barometer of the institution is made by Messrs. Negretti and Zambra, and tested at Greenwich Observatory by Mr. Glaisher, F.R.S., who is a cordial coadjutor with the society. During the past month the institution had sent new life-boats to Margate, Southwood, Swansea, Llandwyn, and Wicklow, and public demonstrations had taken place with all those boats. In every case free conveyances were readily granted to the life-boats by the railway and steam-packet companies. The institution decided on completely renovating the Brighton life-boat station, and on sending there the London Sunday-school life-boat, the Robert Raltes. Reports were read from the inspector and assistant inspector of life-boats to the institution on their recent visits to life-boat stations of the society on different parts of the coast. The institution was about to send to the coast the G. V. Brooke life-boat, the cost of which had been collected amongst the friends and supporters of the late Mr. Brooke, the eminent tragedian, who perished on the occasion of the wreck of the ill-fated screw-steamer *London*. Another life-boat was ready to be sent to Ilfracombe; it was the gift to the institution, on the 21st of June last, of Mr. Robert Broadwater, of Hornsey-rise, in conjunction with his friends, in commemoration of his fiftieth birthday. Payments, amounting to £2215, having been made on various life-boat establishments, the proceedings terminated.

Literature.

Views and Opinions. By MATTHEW BROWNE. London: Alexander Strahan.

We fancy we have before met with the productions of the writer who here calls himself Matthew Browne, though he bore another name then. The style of thought and expression seems familiar to us, and we fancy we could name other works from the same pen which have come under our observation. But be that as it may—and we will not say more on the point lest we should be mistaken—the matter and the manner of the essays included in this volume are equally commendable. Not that either is altogether perfect. We could pick faults in the style, and point out both "views" and "opinions" to which exception might be taken. What we mean is, that the general purpose of the essays is so excellent, and the manner in which it is worked out, as a rule, so admirable and kindly, that a positive sensation of pleasure is left in the mind after a perusal of the work. The writer describes his book as especially a "view" production; and he is right. The volume is more replete with views than with opinions. It contains all sorts of views on all sorts of subjects; but the views are always healthy, and the feeling indicated genial. Mr. Browne is much given to theorising and speculating. He does not often reason; he never dogmatizes. He likes best to state his own notion, and to leave the reader to work out the grounds of it for himself. In fact, these essays are exceedingly suggestive, if we may be allowed to use a phrase much in vogue a few years ago, but which, having become vulgarised, has recently gone somewhat out of fashion. They lead the reader on to think without his being at all conscious of the fact; and to think, too, in an easy and pleasant way on a very interesting series of subjects. Evidently considering that the "proper study of mankind is man," Mr. Browne is always hankering after a knowledge of the operations and experiences of the human mind. The following passage, perhaps, will better indicate the nature of the author's mind, as well as the tone of his book, than any analysis we could make of either:—

There was once an Emperor—Domitian or Caligula, or somebody of that sort, it does not matter—who wished that mankind had all one neck between them, so that he might decapitate the human race at a blow. Lord Byron had a wish much more genial, but quite as wild—namely, that women

Had but one rosy month,
That he might kiss them all, from north to south.

I, too, have often a wish as wild as either; not so genial as that of his deceased Lordship, not so cruel as that of his deceased slaughterman; but it is very characteristic of a morbid inquisitiveness; but the wish is, in brief, this—that all adult mankind could be constituted into one accessible catechumen for me to interrogate concerning their experience. What I want for settling the psychological problems that are constantly putting themselves to me is to know how everybody else thinks and feels. If I could only say to the collective Adam-and-Eve, "How do you feel on such a point?" and the catechumen could answer with one voice, "I feel so and so," what a psychologist I should be! Indeed, I should know too much.

That passage, we think, will impress our readers favourably as to both the style and the spirit of this book, than perusing which we could hardly wish them a more pleasing or profitable occupation. Readers of periodical literature, particularly of the *Argosy*, will recognise several of the essays in this volume as old acquaintances.

The History of Signboards: from the Earliest Times to the Present Day. By JACOB LARWOOD and JOHN CAMDEN HOTTEN. With One Hundred Illustrations. London: J. C. Hotten.

This is a book which people will do well to possess, although they may not be hasty in reading it through. It is as amusing and as tedious as a jest-book; but, whilst a very little can be taken at a time, the dose may be frequently repeated. It is modern as well as antiquarian, and so discursive as to suit for a little steady reading, whilst it is exactly suited to the restlessness induced by a broken appointment or a genuine wet day. The contents of 500 solid pages are wisely classified into some fifteen chapters, called "Historic and Commemorative Signs;" "Flowers, Trees, Herbs;" "Biblical and Religious Signs," &c.; and an index of signs makes reference easy.

The *Signboard* book is one which must be "seen to be appreciated." It is so copious as to be indescribable, except in summary, and its accuracy and opinions can only be taken for "what they are worth." Such must ever be the verdict upon these laborious and amusing performances. Any little gathering of well-read men about town would tear the book to pieces in the course of an evening. The desire to make the thing perfect causes the insertion of much that is useless. But it is not compiled for one class of readers only. There may be many who do not know how Johnson is connected with the Mitre, Addison and Steele with the Devil, and so forth, and such matters will always bear re-mentioning; but, as a rule, Messrs. Larwood and Hotten hang so much heavy history on to their signboards as to make the thing shaky. Beyond such observation, the book seems to be very well done, and there is much amusing antiquarian knowledge displayed in what may be called the translation of quaint signboards. Amateur antiquarians, who consider such signs as the "Bag o' Nails" to be the vulgar for the "Bacchanals," and the "Goat and Compasses" to mean "God encompasses us," will frequently find themselves mistaken. Sometimes not; take the *Salutation and Cat*, which is not necessarily a combination of signs. To salute your friend in the street is but ordinary manners, and in recently ancient times it was customary to present your long stick, which terminated with a cross piece containing snuff, and which was called a "Cat." No explanation can be more simple, more natural. But nobody can actually know on these subjects; but we may wonder why, when the writers were getting literary on the signs concerning "pigeons," they forgot all about Tony Lumpkin's "Three Jolly" ones; and no great knowledge of London would be required to discover the "Intrepid Fox" in Wardour-street, here omitted. Taking doves next to pigeons, there is, or was, the Dove near Fulham. "In a room in this house Thomson wrote part of his 'Winter,'" says Faulkner, in his "Account of Fulham," seemingly desirous of assuring the world that he did not write on the roof the house, but in a room! Well, Thomson was always a luxurious man; but surely a reference to Johnson's "Life" settles that Thomson must have written his "Winter" in Scotland and have brought it up to London. The story of the Emperor Joseph II. staying at an inn called the "Grey Ass" is exactly similar to an English anecdote. Bishop Watson, of Llandaff, becoming popular, was turned into a sign-board in place of the "Old Cock." But custom falling off, Boniface determined to be reverent and circumspect as well. So underneath the Bishop's portrait he wrote "This is the Old Cock." Both stories, which are precisely similar in their details, may be true; it would be a pity to disturb them, even were they not.

Messrs. Larwood and Hotten give hints that many signboards have been painted by distinguished artists. Notably the "Goat in Boots" in the Fulham-road, by Morland. Millais is most unaccountably mentioned. But such information is very scanty.

Least prudent people should think that the literature of signboards is confined to taverns alone, and so dangerous work and fascinating for certain sections of society, they will be pleased to remember that, anciently, a sign to a house was there almost in the light of a number. The practice of signs now exists, with scarcely an exception, amongst taverns.

The Shadow of Destiny. A Romance. By CAPTAIN COLOMB, Author of "Hearths and Watchfires," &c. Two volumes. London: Chapman and Hall.

It is difficult to imagine that a gentleman capable of holding the position of captain of artillery would write a couple of volumes without having some distinct idea and intention in his mind—of course, putting aside such ideas as writing for fame and writing for money. Captain Colomb seems impelled to write "for the fun of the thing;" but his idea and intention can be no more than to frighten his readers—"to thrill the boys and kill the girls," not with "dandy paths," but with alleged ghosts, empty and haunted houses, secret passages, omens of all kinds, and a lunatic who plays at being an amateur undertaker. This ingenious mixture of frightful elements is professedly true; indeed, a preliminary letter from a peeress, whose name and coronet are omitted, permits Captain Colomb to use all letters, &c., to make up his story; but the lady

correspondent says, "Pray do not mention our names, as we are not at all anxious to appear before the public in any way." And perhaps, in ranks far below the peerage, people would generally prefer not to be mixed up with such details. Further to keep up the mysteries, the author prides himself somewhere upon concealing dates, but unfortunately his opening page is dated from the year 1759, and the bulk of the story must belong to 1844; for the Running Rein and Orlando affair of that year's Derby is distinctly told. In 1759 the story opens with a widow lady, who has seen better days, being visited by a ghost and having a dream which means all kinds of unexplained things, followed by her two daughters going up to London. Then follow their letters—the letters—containing accounts of gay and fashionable life, all of which has been done a hundred times better a hundred times before, together with an elopement and some sudden deaths, &c. That may be taken as a prologue to the story of 1844, in which many of the characters are found to be related to the lady visited by the ghost, her daughters, and the gentleman who ran away with one of them. We confess that we see nothing astonishing or horrible in people having had ancestors or family connections a hundred years ago; however, for those who feel chilled to the marrow by such painful discoveries here are two whole volumes of them. The story proper shows how poverty-stricken Mr. Rochfort and his daughter Alexandra leave London to occupy an old house called "Moate," the very place where the ghost appeared to the venerable lady in 1750. The same ghost is still there, not its descendant; and there are some harrowing things besides. The house has been locked up ever since the old lady's death, and they find a bed-room with the bed just as it had been turned down to take out a corpse. Another room has all the traces of a funeral party, as it might have been an hour ago. There are three chairs in a row where the coffin rested, chairs at the table for the guests, and remains of funeral baked meats which crumble to dust. These people are invaded by a certain Gaspard Griffin, a Satanic young gentleman, who has been thwarted in love, and who makes himself most unlovable, by way of mending matters. He frightens Alexandra by falling in love with her, treats her in the manner of a blackguard, and discovers a secret passage from his bed-room to hers. In doing this he finds a chapel, and also a bundle of letters—the letters. However, despite these matters, the young people love intensely. But his mother, Lady Eaglescliffe, will not hear of the match, and so she entraps Alexandra into running away, and thus all parties appear at the Moate. What follows is attributable to Lady Eaglescliffe alone. Alexandra is hunted into a turret, where she dies. Gaspard gains the turret by means of the secret passage, and, seeing what has happened, goes raving mad. Nobody knows what becomes of anybody else, unless we except an amateur undertaker, who dies. This old gentleman is insane, and will insist on having various sarcophagi opened and burying his servants alive, or being buried himself. With all the dreary attempts at profundity about "Shadows of Destiny" very much religious controversy is mixed up with the most commonplace dialogue conceivable. The most cultivated characters in the book do not scruple to say "My gracious;" and "O law;" and sometimes they break out into verse, which is equally unpleasant. We must suffer a mere description of this work to speak for itself.

The Mystery of Pain: a Book for the Sorrowful. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is a little book containing a long essay—sermon, if the serious reader please—which must be approached reverently. Sooner or later, pain and sorrow become part of the common lot; and the writer, evidently a lady, would teach that they are to be taken as Mr. Allingham beautifully takes

The open riches of the earth,
Endowing men in their despite;

that out of evil is to come good; and that, if all were known, people would not, as it were, suffer for being in pain, nor sorrow for being sorrowful. The lady anatomist of melancholy "would not, if she could, be gay;" or, at all events, seems to be happily intrenched in some kind of wretchedness unexplained. Beyond all question, this is a frame of mind to be discouraged. Ages ago it was ridiculed in Laman Blanchard's "Account of the Inconsolable Society;" and in modern times the wisest—and the highest—in the Church have held cheerfulness to form an element of godliness: but in a more active, substantial, and worldly manner than is here inculcated. Certainly, something far short of "muscular" Christianity, but far removed from that holy feeling of resignation to pains and losses which has a trick of degenerating into fatalism.

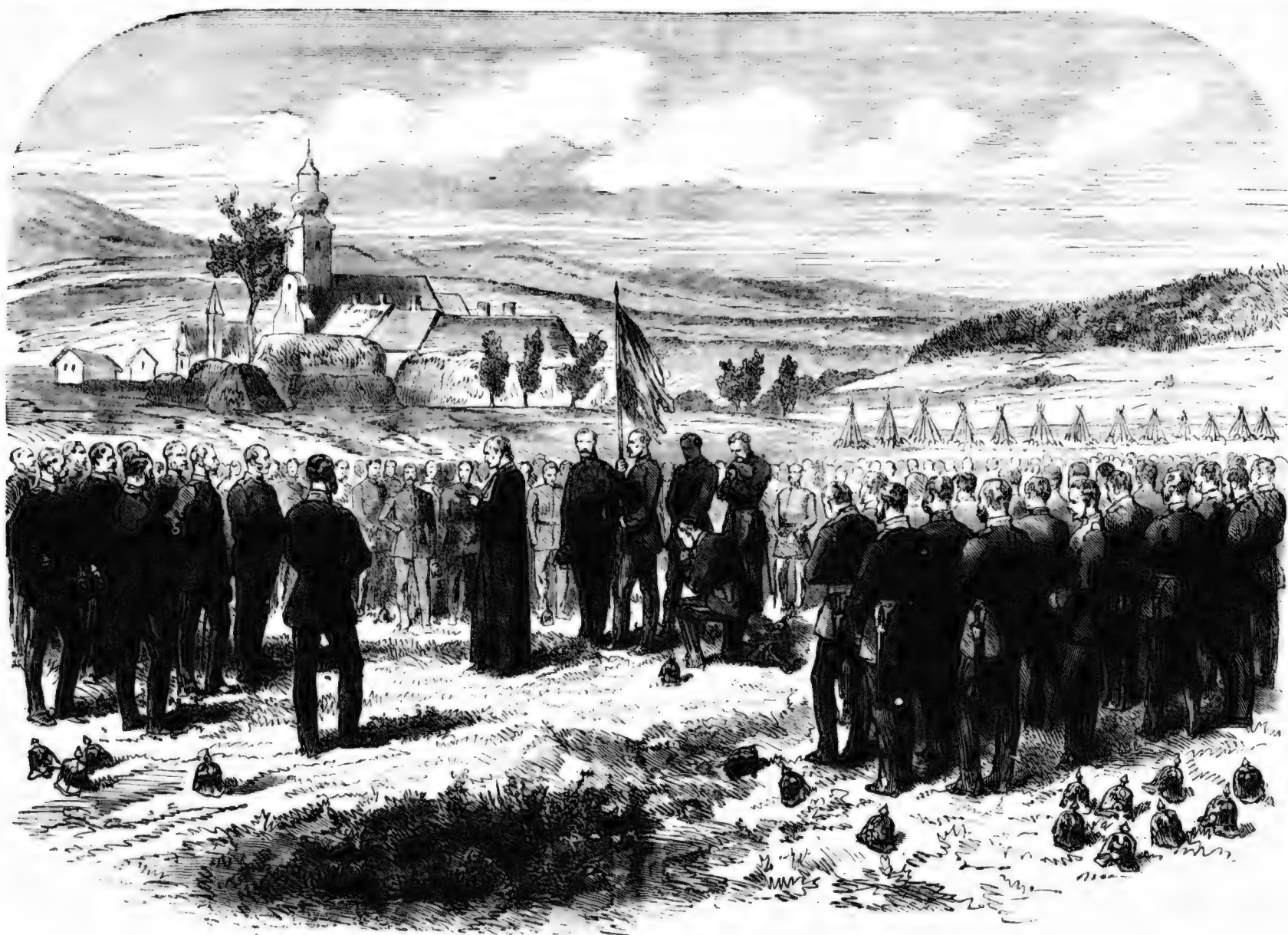
It is not to be expected that many amongst the universe of sufferers will draw much actual relief from this book; but it cannot fail to bring many minds made turbulent by physical or psychical disorder into a calmer train. To be bent to the earth can be pleasing to none; but who does not know of enmity being turned even into love by affliction? A life made suddenly miserable may earn those good words of reverence and praise which, as a rule, are every man's portion—after death, and so be a "something on account" of future happiness. We should be sorry to agree with the writer as to the total failure of all such enjoyments and happinesses in life as are to be derived from wealth or a good constitution; indeed, our views are directly opposite; although for people to pin their faith to such only would be had indeed. With these and other reservations we shall be glad to hear of these pages making friends.

Days of Yore. By SARAH TYTLER, Author of "Citoyenne Jacqueline." Two volumes. London and New York: Alexander Strahan.

For the most part these stories will be found excellent reading. When "Yore" was a difficult question to decide, but Mrs. Tytler makes it so elastic as to include Saint Margaret and Macbeth, and stretch into the middle of the last century. Margaret, the wife of "Young Malcolm," sainted in Scotland, is a charming story of devotion and enthusiasm, which will, no doubt, be new to many readers; and "Shadows on the Coast of Life," describing the escape of Macduff, has a grim interest and firmly appropriate style. There is a quaint humour in "The Old Yeomanry Weeks"—not long ago—with a love story as fresh as a daisy. The "Dutch Fair" is brilliant in local colouring, and has love scenes of a totally different kind. "On the Stage and off the Stage" is the story of a good and triumphant actress who makes everybody happy, in a style which would charm Mr. Charles Reade. Under general headings, of "Lovers' Quarrels and How They Ended," "Likenesses and Contrasts," and "Two Specimens of the Old School," are a dozen short or long papers which carry the reader along without possibility of resistance. For plain, unpretending writing, for good sense and humour, and for the great merit of never being a page too long, we would rank these two volumes with any of the minor productions of our most popular writers of fiction.

Routledge's Commercial Letter Writer. By P. L. SIMMONDS, Author of "Dictionary of Trade Products," &c. London: Routledge and Sons.

We have always had a notion—perhaps an unjust one—that the man who could not write a letter without having a model before him must be a fool, and ought not to attempt even so simple a form of literary composition. He who has got something to say, ought always to be capable of finding decently intelligible words to say it in; and he who has got nothing to say, should altogether, in our view, abstain from pens, ink, and paper. But as it would seem that there are persons to whose lot it falls to write letters, and who yet do not know how to go about their task, models are indispensable; and hence the utility of books like that before us. The models provided by Mr. Simmonds are varied to meet all conceivable contingencies of commercial correspondence; and to people who cannot "do it out of their own head" the book will prove a great help. As such we recommend it; but would much more earnestly recommend all correspondents, commercial and others, so to cultivate the art of letter-writing as to be independent of such artificial aids.



RELIGIOUS SERVICE IN THE PRUSSIAN ARMY.

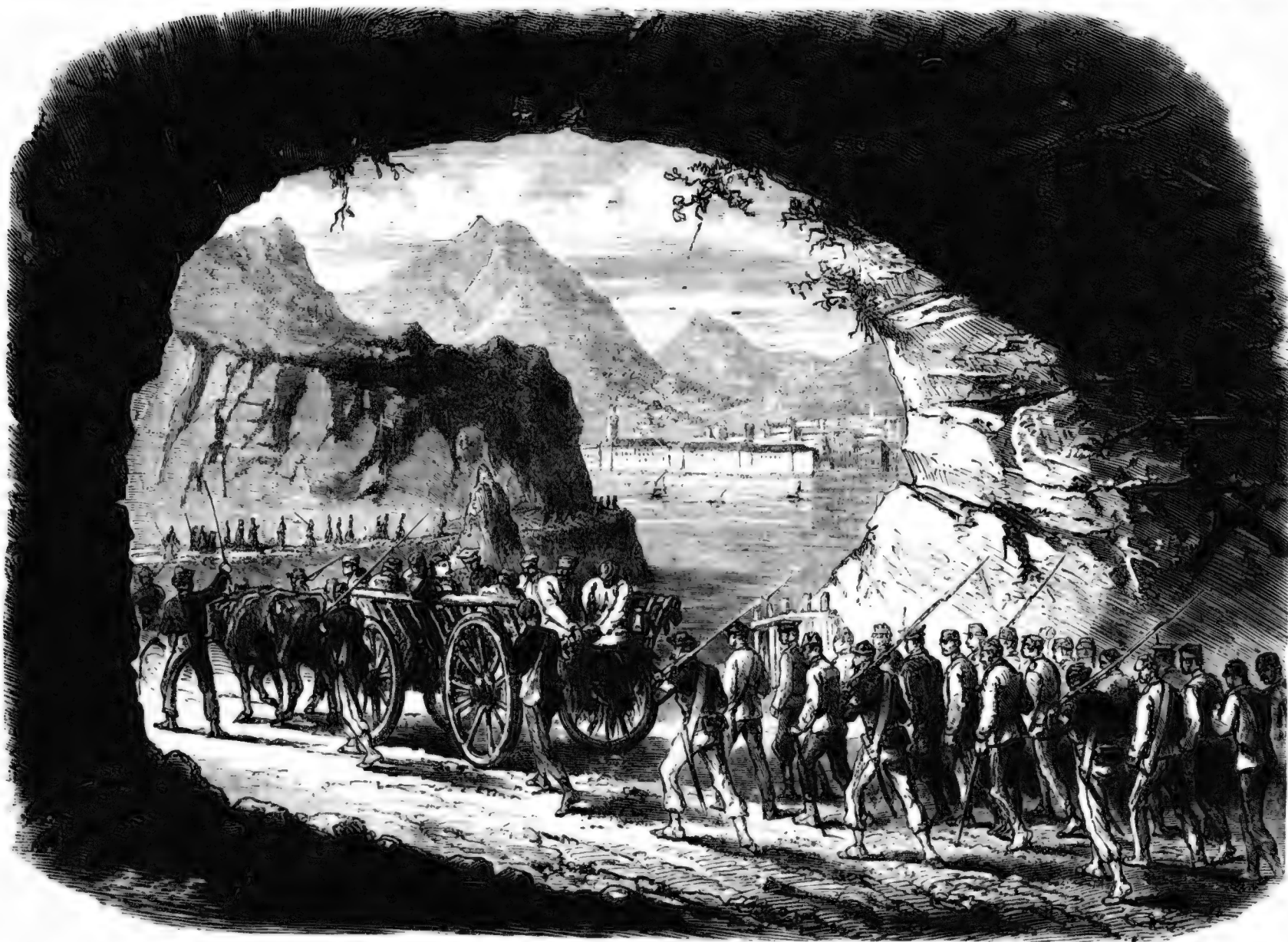
REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE WAR.

AUSTRIAN WOUNDED AND PRISONERS ON THEIR WAY FROM
RIVA TO CONDINO.

We published last week an illustration representing the encamp-

ment of the Italian volunteers at the little town of Condino; and our present Engraving is taken from a sketch made on the road from Riva to that place, on the occasion of the transport of a number of Austrians, many of them wounded, who had been taken

prisoners by the Garibaldians. The scene is one of the most picturesque in the world, the road itself being cut out of the rock, while the view of the mountains and the beauty of the whole surrounding district at the northern extremity of Lake Garda is



CONVOY OF AUSTRIAN WOUNDED AND PRISONERS ON THE WAY FROM RIVA TO CONDINO.

unequalled even in that delightful country.

DIVINE SERVICE IN THE PRUSSIAN ARMY.

Our other illustration in connection with the late war represents the celebration of Divine service in the camp of the 24th Prussian Regiment, at Letawitz, by the Chaplain, according to the simple ceremonies of the Protestant communion. The very simplicity and impressiveness of the occasion, however, adds to its deep solemnity; and there are few more attentive and earnest congregations than the soldiers of the 24th Regiment, who listened so reverently to the preacher during the service at the little village of Letawitz. In the Prussian army it is the custom for the men to remove their helmets and to remain bareheaded during the religious service.

FISH EXHIBITION AT BOULOGNE.

In these days of international and working men's exhibitions it is pleasant to find that the fine old town of Boulogne has taken the lead in a display which should lead to very excellent results amongst a class which has hitherto not attracted any great degree of attention, though we are all more or less dependent on it for some of our commonest luxuries. Whatever may be of advantage to the fishing interest will be—without meaning a bad pun—beneficial to the whole community; and it is well that a nautical and fishing exhibition should have been inaugurated at Boulogne, where the religious fêtes have lately been such a continued attraction. This exhibition is due to the co-operation of the Prefect of the Pas de Calais and the Minister of the Marine and Colonies; and, having been opened on the 16th of last month, will continue open until Oct 15.

The exhibition is held at the handsome Halle de Poissons, just completed at an expense of £20,000; and when it is considered how important the pêcheurs and the poissonnières are at Boulogne, it may well be understood that they formed the principal part of the cortège in the opening ceremony, which commenced with an address and benediction from the Abbé and various speeches from the promoters, ending with some appropriate music.

The poissonnières or matelottes formed a very conspicuous part of the show; about two dozen or so of them, regarded as a species of elders of the congregation, or a committee of the house, or whatever they might be termed, walked past, two-and-two, in scarlet skirts, white silk shawls, and white kid gloves. One stately old dame of sixty, who is termed the présidente, headed them; and mighty proud she looked of her position, taking snuff in her white kids in a manner which showed that grandeur and display were things not by any means to be allowed to interfere with comfort and the necessities of existence. These matelottes are for the most part very well off, having accumulated a good deal of property about Boulogne. They are a sort of separate race, as it were, not intermarrying with the population at large much, but sticking to their

class. Certainly they are, as a body, better looking than their neighbours.

In the evening a grand banquet was held by the Maire, M. Livois, to which about 300 guests were invited, and here the procession of fishermen and fisherwomen walked round the great room at the établissement where the dinner was served.

The exhibition itself comprises almost everything that can be supposed to relate to fish, from the fish themselves—in every variety, both native and foreign, including numerous monsters of the deep, which give one quite horrible sensations—to the newest devices for capturing large and small fry by means of hooks, lines, spears, nets, harpoons, pots, baskets, and tridents. The preservation of fish by salting, pickling, curing, drying, and so on, is, of course, one of the objects of this part of the display, and with it is associated a very interesting section containing products of the sea in the shape of substances derived from seaweed and other marine growths. The largest portion of the exhibition, of course, relates to fishing, and this is represented in all kinds of ways, from models of fishing-smacks and other vessels down to bait and hooks.

On entering the exposition the first thing that strikes you is an enormous tub, used for salting fish. This receptacle is about 7 ft. in diameter, which does not sound much, but a tub of that size becomes a ponderous affair. There are two or three others in the exhibition; they are made by M. Lebeau, of Boulogne. On each side of the entrance-hall are pictures of fishermen and fisherwomen, shipwrecks, and other nautical subjects very well executed

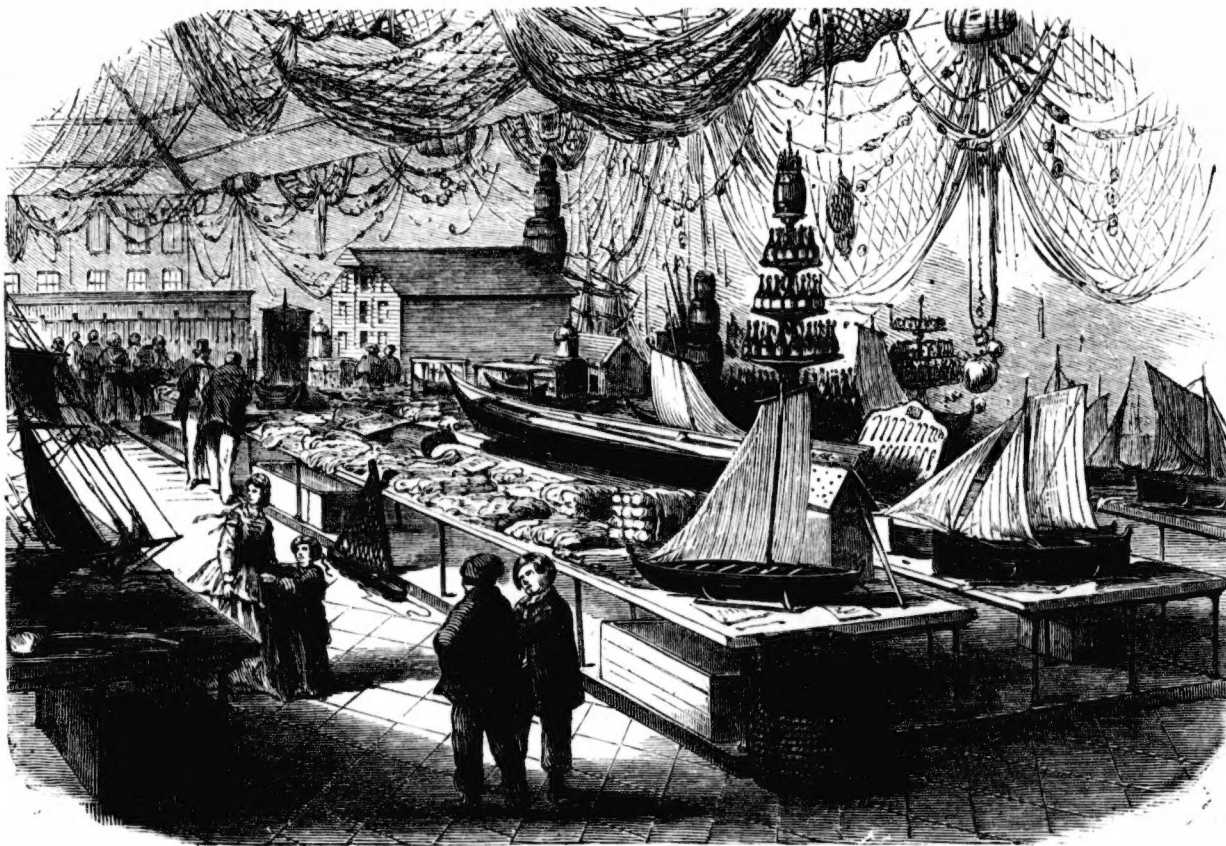
or rather like a huge hempen extinguisher, is spread a large cast-net, gracefully extended. It has a very odd and quaint effect, looking as if some one had just thrown the cast-net over, and was bagging the Emperor and Empress as choice specimens in the piscatorial line. All around the walls hang nets of every possible kind and variety, and from angle to angle, in every device and whim of decoration, nets are festooned and ornamented with flags.

Here hangs an enormous trawl-net, bottom upwards, and gaping down upon society as though the visitors were so many soles, skate, turbot, &c., which it was determined to sweep up. There, spread out in numerous folds over folds, is some huge pilchard seine, of tremendous depth and most inconceivable length. Here stretches some trammel, and there a huge drum-net depending, elongated, ring after ring, from beam to beam, with extended wings, giving it altogether the aspect of the skeleton of a large flying dragon or lizard, or one of those machines which one used some years since to see in the printshop windows to facilitate aeronautics. Hanging from ceiling to basement, fold over fold, are mackerel, herring, or sprat nets, of all sizes, sorts, and materials, from coarsest string to finest thread, and of all sorts of colours likewise. Aloft, a great seal-net fashioned of small rope almost makes one wonder as to what sort of fish it can be meant for; while long lines, in links, festoons, &c., hang here and there, at intervals interspersed with harpoons, spears, eel-traps, and bouquets of flags and fishery implements of every description, make the scene as gay as it is capable of being made.

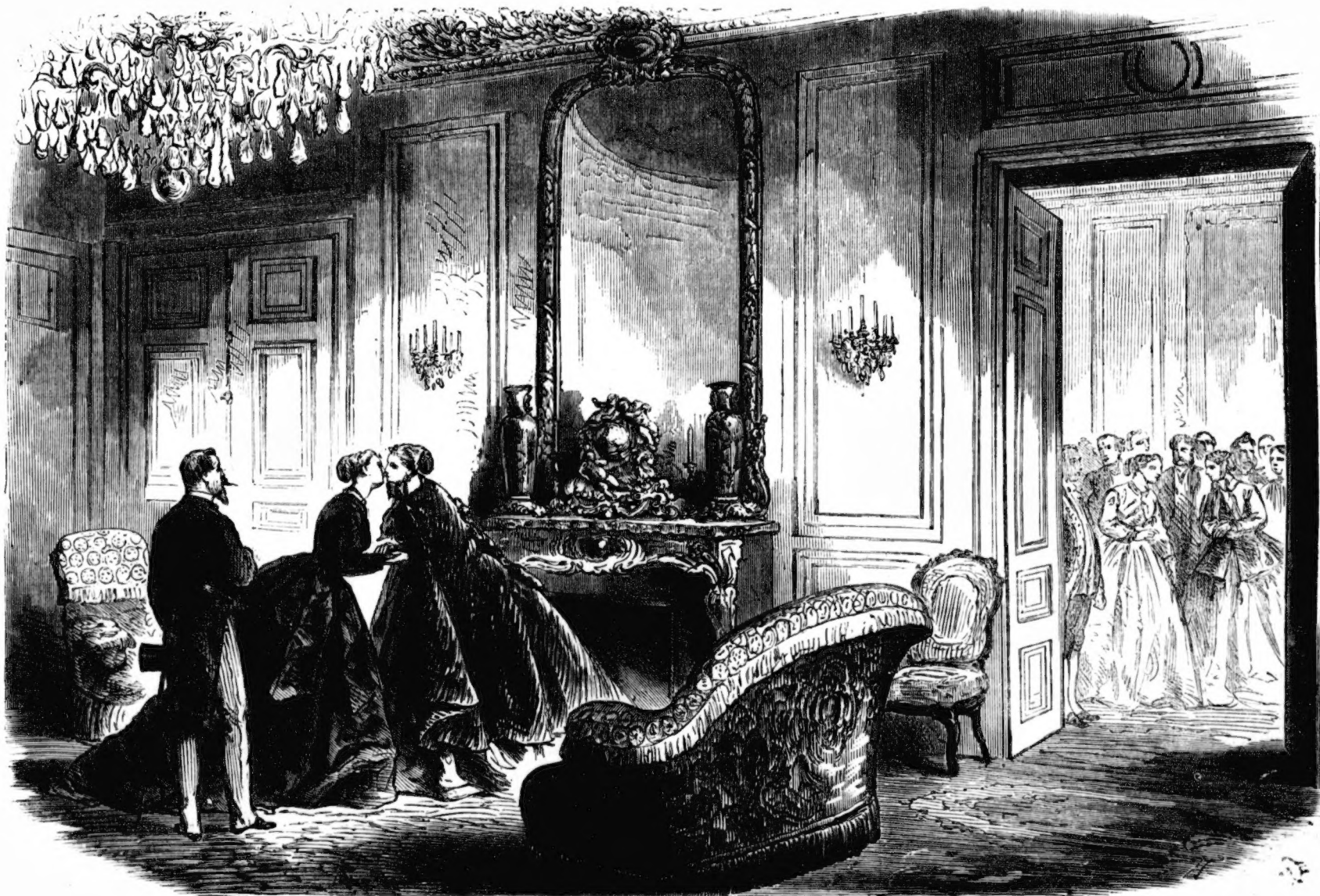
The Iceland and Greenland fisheries have contributed many

indeed, some of the best being by M. Daryon, of Boulogne. In an ante-room on the right are a couple of net-making machines, with other machinery. The net-making machines are by Jouannin, of Paris. They are beautiful pieces of ingenuity, but it would be quite hopeless to attempt to explain them; indeed, it is difficult, without a very close inspection, and that by a person having some knowledge of machinery, to understand the working of them at all. They are driven by a small steam-engine; and one makes from fine thread a sprat net; the other a coarser net, for general work.

Immediately opposite to the entrance of the first great hall stands a trophy surmounted with busts of the Emperor and Empress, suitably wreathed and decorated. The base consists of a *mélange* of every possible thing in the exposition which can be pressed into the service. There are coils and blocks of cordage of all sizes, shovels, tubs, barrels, cables, eel-pots, nets, flags, sails, rudders, wheels, baskets, anchors, blocks and sheaves, wooden bowls, buckets, landing-nets, capstan-bars, herring-shovels, cod-presses, long lines, short lines, every kind of line, and upon this gracefully arranged marine store the Emperor and Empress smile benignly, while pendent over their heads, like a nimbus,



INTERNATIONAL MARINE AND FISH EXHIBITION AT BOULOGNE.



FAREWELL VISIT OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH TO THE EMPRESS OF MEXICO.

objects well worthy of close inspection; and they vividly illustrate the hardy and daring life of the men of the sea in that region. Ladies were especially attracted to the beautiful skins of birds, which are converted into coverings for protecting the rough, honest hands of the northern fishermen, but which would as well serve to adorn the chapeau of a fair lady as those extraordinary embellishments which were adopted a few months ago—such, for instance, as the preserved specimens of creeping things which for a time found resting-places on the hats and bonnets of the French and English damsels. Near these little objects is a Greenland canoe of great length, manned with a figure in full costume, and supplied with a paddle, harpoon, &c. A Lapland sledge is also shown. Anglers can realise something of the dangers and excitement of fishing in these seas by examining the shark-hooks, which are of great strength, and are attached to chain and very stout tackle. There are also hooks for securing the walrus, valuable for the oil extracted from them. A Greenlander forwards two models, one showing the construction of a summer-house, the roof being of skin, and weighed down to the base by stones of considerable size. In the winter-house the walls are composed of alternate layers of peat, moss, and stone, and upon them is laid a flat roof, the windows of the place consisting of tightly-strained bladders. Among the articles near those models is a fishing-line of immense length, the material being strips of whale-bone ingeniously joined. Holland sends articles of clothing, noticeable among which are a pair of waterproof trousers and boots combined, evidently designed for very rough work.

Considering the maritime position of Britain, we might have fairly expected that she would have occupied a leading position at this Exposition Internationale; but the Government appears to have displayed extraordinary apathy with reference to this movement, although it is so well calculated to enlarge our knowledge respecting a branch of commerce in which hundreds of thousands on our coasts are daily engaged. What may have been the cause of this indifference we cannot tell, but certain it is that there are but few representatives here of the fisheries of Britain. Mr. Frank Buckland, who has so distinguished himself in piscatorial pursuits, and especially in his recent efforts to breed salmon in the English rivers, has exhibited several collections of unusual interest.

FAREWELL VISIT OF THE EMPRESS AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH TO THE EMPRESS OF MEXICO.

ALL sorts of conjectures have been made respecting the precise intention of the visit of the Empress of Mexico to Paris, and though the particulars have of course not transpired, there can be no doubt that she undertook this long journey in order to secure for her husband the continued support of France, and to seek not only material aid in a pecuniary sense, but the more necessary assistance of a prolonged French occupation. It must have been a bitter disappointment to the Emperor of the French to be compelled to refuse this assistance; but he had done all he promised, and unless the actual honour of France had been directly concerned, he could not have consented to reinforce his troops, or to delay the departure of the army, whose presence has so long been a cause of offence to the United States Government. The recent proclamation of President Johnson with respect to the blockade of Matamoros shows that, if he would avoid a misunderstanding with America, for a cause far from satisfactory to the French nation, the Emperor Napoleon must withdraw from his original design and leave Maximilian to walk alone in Mexico, or abdicate the throne which has cost so much as an experiment, in favour of a renewed and revised republic under American patronage. It was a painful duty to be compelled to refuse aid when the Empress Charlotte sought it in person; and the task of meeting her was first delegated to the Empress of the French, whose gentle sympathy has so often been efficacious in alleviating inevitable suffering.

Our Illustration represents the last of the series of visits paid by their Majesties to the unfortunate lady while she remained at her hotel in Paris, where she lived in simple retirement, the recent death of her father precluding all public display, and her frequent attendance at the Tuileries being only connected with the object of her journey. Persons have been much surprised in Brussels that the Empress of Mexico, on coming for the first time to Europe since the death of her father, Leopold I., did not at once pay a visit to her family there. It appears that a point of etiquette has been the cause of it. The Empress felt hurt because the King of the Belgians had sent no one to receive her on her landing at St. Nazaire. A correspondence on the subject has since taken place between the brother and sister, the difference has been arranged, and the Empress will visit Brussels on her return from Miramar.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THERE is an absolute dearth of musical news, which will be relieved, however, next week by the Worcester Festival. The arrival of that brilliant and very popular cantatrice Mdle. Carlotta Patti, has given fresh éclat to Mr. Alfred Meillon's Concerts at Covent Garden, already full of attractions. Her reception every night is so enthusiastic that it is impossible not to recognise in her the greatest favourite an English conductor has ever had the good luck to attach to his fortunes. Her marvellous execution of the opening cavatina from "Linda," and of a mazurka with variations, by one Bajetti, create a veritable furor. On one of the "Mozart nights" she gave the grand aria "Gli angeli d'inferno," from "Die Zauberflöte," so admirably that there was no resisting the unanimous and uproarious call for repetition. So Mdle. Patti was compelled to repeat the air, which she did with the best possible grace.

"What," asks a contemporary, "after all the operatic turmoil of the last four or five months, have been the artistic results of the opera season? What new masterpieces has it made known to us? What new singer of genius has it introduced to us?" The great "novelty" of the season has been an opera of the eighteenth century, the "Marriage of Figaro." The great "attractions," in a personal sense, have been, as during the season of last year, Mdle. Patti and Mdle. Lucca at one house, and Mdle. Ilma de Murska at the other. In the mean while, plenty of new singers have appeared at both operas, though very few have met with a decided success. At the Royal Italian Opera, Mdle. Orgeni made a favourable impression as the heroine of "La Traviata" and in other light soprano parts; and Mdme. Vilda, by her performance in "Norma," caused genuine enthusiasm. At Her Majesty's Theatre Signor Mongini confirmed, or rather re-established and improved, the reputation he already enjoyed. Signor Tasca showed himself, in some parts, a substitute for Signor Mongini, but has done nothing to render intelligible the favour he is said to enjoy in Italy. However, it is not the business of an operatic director to be continually producing masterpieces and singers of genius. It is difficult to find a new and presentable opera of any kind, and there is great lack just now of first-rate singers. Perhaps the worst that can be said of the past opera season is, that it is at an end. For four months in the year London is mad for the opera, and nothing that Mr. Gye or Mr. Mapleson can offer is quite good enough for it. Then for eight months we have no Italian Opera at all.

CONDEMNED MEAT.—In the last five years no less than 939,016 lb. of meat have been condemned in the City markets as unfit for human food—viz., 79,662 lb. in Aldgate Market, 146,846 lb. in Leadenhall Market, and 712,508 lb. in Newgate Market; \$85,000 lb. consisted of good meat that had become putrid; there were 505,000 lb. of diseased meat, and 49,000 lb. the flesh of animals that had died from natural causes or from disease. This statement relates only to the City proper. In the metropolis outside the City there is no effective supervision, and animals in the most diseased condition may be slaughtered and sold.

STATURE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS.—An American gentleman, Dr. Gould, having examined the returns relating to a million of Federal soldiers and sailors engaged in the recent civil war, states that the time at which men born in America reach their maximum height appears to be as late as twenty-eight years of age, but that the age for maximum stature comes earliest in States where the height is found to be the greatest. The men of foreign birth he found considerably shorter than men of American nativity; but the stature seems to depend more on the place in which men are reared than on that in which they are born. The highest stature found in the books was 6 ft. 10 in. Several hundred men were above 6 ft. 4 in.; but these tall men did not wear so well as the shorter by a great deal. The Iowa men gave the greatest average height—namely, 6 ft. 9 in.

THE CANNON-STREET STATION.

ANOTHER most important link in the network of lines which now traverse the metropolis in all directions was, as already notified in these columns, completed and formally opened on Saturday last. This was the magnificent station and bridge which makes its junction with the Charing-cross line near the Borough-market, and, turning off from that point, crosses the river near London Bridge and terminates about the centre of Cannon-street. As might be expected, this little completing loop has been uncommonly costly; but it is also expected to be unusually remunerative, for the station has been built on a scale which supposes a passenger traffic of no less than £20,000,000 annually. The Metropolitan Railway is, for its length, probably the most expensive ever built, and it was confidently predicted during the time of its construction that the shareholders could expect nothing but ruinous loss. Yet there is no line in the kingdom which pays higher dividends, nor whose shares stand at a higher premium. When this line was opened there was a perfect panic among the omnibus proprietors "working" the Bayswater-road, in the belief that their occupation was gone, yet they are actually earning a penny per mile per day more than before the railway opened, and this in the face of thousands who hourly use the underground line. In truth, it is only when attempts are made to provide for the exigencies of the metropolitan passenger traffic that its almost boundless nature comes to be appreciated. No lines that we have yet are equal to it, for, in fact, the City railways not only supply a want, but create it. The new loop-line from Charing-cross to Cannon-street has been constructed with the most vivid sense of these growing requirements. Trains will run between these two stations at little more than two-minute intervals all day long. Like shuttles in a loom, they will be almost incessant in their backward and forward action, and the passenger traffic is expected to be immense, for the Cannon-street station is one of the most convenient and central in London. It is only about 300 yards from the Bank of England, Cheapside, and Cornhill; about 700 yards from the General Post Office, and, of course, less than that from St. Paul's.

Except in the bridge and the building of the Cannon-street station, no very great expense has been incurred; but both the works we have named have, of course, been very heavy items in the bill of costs. The bridge is, for a railway bridge, singularly graceful. Unlike the bridge at Charing-cross, where Mr. Hawkshaw had to make his designs fit in with previous work, to use abutments not suited to his outlines, and, above all, to provide a footbridge, which spoilt the whole effect, the bridge at Cannon-street has been executed entirely in accordance with the first conception. Its piers, which have been built on the cylinder principle, have been taken far below the bed of the river, and ordinary girders of wrought iron between these piers carry the roadway, which is laid for five lines of rails. A handsome ornamental balustrade on each side gives a peculiar appearance of grace and lightness to the whole; and but that the stupendous masonry of London Bridge somewhat dwarfs its effect, it would be one of the most graceful structures of its kind. Certainly it is better than any railway bridge we have yet had, and even better in its outline than that of Blackfriars.

Of course before opening this bridge for traffic it was tested under the superintendence of the officers of the Board of Trade, and tested to a strain about fifteen times as great as any that can ever come upon it in the course of ordinary traffic. In fact, no strain could now by any possibility come upon it equal to the test applied, and under this the deflection was merely nominal, and on the removal of the loaded trucks and engines the bridge recovered to its perfect level instantaneously. This testing by the Board of Trade is literally the merest matter of form. Given so many sectional inches of wrought iron, and engineers know to a pound what the structure will carry. Within the last few years, however, the Board of Trade requirements in the matter of strength have immensely increased, and it is a fact that many of our most celebrated railway bridges now doing good work would not be passed at the present day if newly built.

The station to which this bridge leads is, if not one of the handsomest, certainly one of the loftiest and most convenient in the kingdom. Its arched roof is wider in a single span and longer in extent than the roof of any other building in London. It is nearly 40 ft. wider and nearly 100 ft. longer than even the Charing-cross station. Every convenience which travellers require—waiting-rooms, lavatories, and refreshment-salons—is here fitted up in a style which may literally be termed luxurious. There are no less than five spacious platforms in it, one of which has a double carriage-road for exit and entrance. As at Charing-cross, a splendid hotel closes in the station. This, however, is not yet finished. It is being completed from the designs of Mr. Barry, and, like all modern hotels, will make a really magnificent addition to our street architecture. There are, of course, all the usual appliances of a station in the way of engine-sheds, sidings, turn-tables. Everything is not only well arranged for organisation, but the finish is perfect, and the materials are the very best of their kind.

Here, however, our commendation must end. What has been done is simply building the line and station: the business of working the line appears to have been forgotten. The opening of it on Saturday was a mere form, for no line was ever more completely closed. It was "blocked" and "blocked" almost continuously throughout the day. No matter what the destination of the train, all the passengers, wherever bound, seemed to be brought to Cannon-street for the purpose of ascertaining for themselves how finely the new bridge was built, and how completely impassable it might be made by total mismanagement and want of organisation. We should not like to venture on a statement as to the time which some of the trains were delayed; but beyond all question anyone could easily have walked from Cannon-street to Charing-cross and back before he could have accomplished one-half of the distance by train on Saturday. Some allowance may possibly be made for a first day's opening, and perhaps after a short experience things may get into better working order, and a very much better working order it must be if the line is to be kept open at all. What the signalmen must have done when the trains were waiting in long lines on the bridge we can hardly conjecture; but what they had to do may be guessed from the fact that at the signal-box, at the entrance to Cannon-street station, there are no less than sixty semaphore arms at the different points. Next to the signal levers at the Clapham junction, where, it is said, one may change carriages for any part of the world, there is nothing like the signal station at Cannon-street. It extends from one side of the bridge to the other. It has a range of no less than sixty-seven levers. Those for distance signals are coloured yellow, red for the in-trains on the east line, blue for those going out, and black for the "points." Each lever is numbered on the face and on the top, and the work of all is further indicated by the lettering on the brass plate which is placed along the front of the lever-frame. In fact, it is very like a complicated system of hotel-bells, with only this difference, that if the handle pulled is not promptly responded to a collision may follow, and, according to the theory of railway authorities, ought to follow.

The temporary block of Saturday may be overlooked on account of its being the first day of the opening of the line, but only overlooked on the understanding that after the first day it should never be repeated.—Times.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The "weekly" return of deaths issued by the Registrar-General up to the 1st inst., shows a very satisfactory decrease in the number of deaths from the prevailing epidemic. The deaths from cholera during each of the last five weeks have been 1053, 781, 455, 265, and 198; and, from cholera and diarrhoea together, 1407, 1045, 649, 394, and 326. Divided into districts, the 198 deaths from cholera in last week were distributed as follows:—West, 6; north, 15; central, 9; east, 122; and south, 46. While in the east districts the cholera has declined rapidly, it is nearly stationary in those of the south, the deaths happening chiefly by the river at Deptford and Woolwich, where (says the Registrar-General), it is to be feared, the authorities and people are negligent, and where the pumps demand attention. A very interesting improvement on the water supply is appended to the report. It is also added that, at Liverpool, after a small decrease on the previous week, there has been a serious increase for the week ending last Saturday. Out of 592 deaths registered, 225 are referred to cholera (79 more than last week) and 78 to diarrhoea.

THE FATAL OCCURRENCE ON MONT BLANC.

M. LOPPE, a well-known artist in glacier scenes, writes from Chamounix as follows to the British Consul at Geneva, respecting the recent accident to Sir G. Young's party at Mont Blanc:—

As soon as it was known that some accident had happened to these unfortunate Englishmen just below the summit of Mont Blanc, we set off, myself and two guides, on the one hand, and seven other guides sent by the Mayor of Chamounix, and accompanied by two gendarmes, the latter little accustomed to the glaciers, and who retarded us greatly. At last, at seven o'clock in the evening, we reached the cabin of the Grands Mulets. As we were preparing to start from there in search of those we supposed to be either hurt or incapable of extricating themselves from among the precipices we saw them arrive—that is to say, two of them only, the other having been, they told us, killed instantaneously by falling on his head from a height of 20 ft. These travellers were Sir George Young and his two brothers; the youngest, Mr. Samuel Young, was the unfortunate victim of the accident. Sir George expressing to me a wish to endeavour to recover his brother's body, I chose six of the most able of the guides to accompany him. The others would have only been a hindrance, as they were already tired and indisposed by the quantities of snow water they had drunk on their way up. The party left at a quarter to three o'clock, and I remained at the cabin with an Englishman, who had on our arrival most kindly placed his guides and provisions at our disposal. . . . Towards twelve o'clock, finding Sir George and his party did not return, I proposed that we should go to meet them and take some provisions with us. After having been an hour on the road, we met a party of Frenchmen returning from Mont Blanc, who gave us some very vague information of the others. We began to feel alarmed, the fog which enveloped the mountains grew thicker as we ascended, and a fine snow began to fall. We arrived at the Grand Plateau at three o'clock, and, hearing no answer to our numerous cries, myself, Bagnette, and Alexandre Tournier pressed forward. At last we heard the voices of Sir George and his guides, who had lost their way above the precipices that separate the Corridor from the Grand Plateau, and who dared not advance a step for fear of being precipitated into a crevasse. The difficulty was to give them any certain advice; at last a gust of wind dispersed the fog, and we saw them at a height of 1000 ft. on the edge of a frightful declivity of ice. I recognised a comparatively easy passage at the foot of the Rochers Rouges, and, by force of signs, they having seen us, we directed them which way to take. At last, thanks to the energy of Bagnette, we were able to join them, and my two men helped to bring down the body, which was accomplished with difficulty. Sir George shook me by the hand, and I was indeed thankful to have been able to render this service to a man whose energy and moral courage were a subject of admiration to me. Our provisions proved of great use to the exhausted party, who told us that the Frenchmen had refused the aid they had asked of them; and that, owing to the bad weather, they had gone astray near the Corridor. Jean Croy and Sir George were the only ones who had kept up their energy to the last. By seven o'clock we were all once more at the Grands Mulets. Leaving the body there under the charge of Dr. Depray, Sir George and I proceeded to Chamounix, he being anxious to return as soon as possible to England to carry the melancholy intelligence of the accident to his mother. The body arrived at Chamounix on Saturday at two o'clock, and was conveyed to England on Saturday by Mr. Albert Young.

In a subsequent letter M. Loppe defends the conduct of Sir G. Young's party in starting without guides, and says that they were fully justified in thinking that they could safely ascend the mountain alone, as they were young, strong, and well-equipped. He says:—"The accident was owing to a fortuitous circumstance. The heat, which on the previous day had been rather great, had caused the superficial snow on the Calotte to melt, which, however, the next day presented a hard and slippery surface. In seeking an easier passage from Les Petits Mulets the foot of one of the brothers (Mr. Albert Young) slipped, and he began to slide down, dragging with him successively his two brothers. Their fall was in itself in nowise dangerous. The two elder, who fell first, were simply stunned, and remained motionless for a few minutes; but the youngest, who was the last, fell so unfortunately (no doubt on his head) that the vertebral column was broken between the eighth and ninth ribs, according to the surgeon's report. The height from which they fell was only from 20 ft. to 30 ft. The moments which followed must have been frightful for the survivors; but at that period their position was observed at Chamounix, and was judged to be perilous. In fact, the cold is so intense at that height that there is a risk of being frozen in an hour or two. Happily, that misfortune did not occur, as on that day the temperature was at that height not insupportable. These gentlemen were unable to say how long they remained near their brother's corpse, and I had to give them information upon that point from what I had observed through my telescope. Thus the rumours which have been propagated concerning this catastrophe arise rather on account of the place where it has happened. If it had occurred on a second-rate mountain, or even upon ordinary glaciers, there would have been only a commonplace notice of it in the daily journals, and no more would have been said. These three gentlemen had made a more dangerous ascent a few days before, having passed over the Col de Sageroux with 2 ft. of snow on its summit.

M. Loppe adds that the body of the unhappy gentleman reached Chamounix at two o'clock on the following day, and that he, at the request of the surviving brothers, rendered his assistance for its conveyance through France to England, its departure from Chamounix being attended by a great assemblage of the inhabitants—the guides who had assisted in the search for the body surrounding the hearth, each carrying a lighted taper.

Mr. Bulkeley Samuel Young, B.A., of King's College, Cambridge, brother of Sir George Young, and one of the sons of Lady Young, of Cookham, who lost his life lately while descending from the summit of Mont Blanc, took his degree during the present year, when he graduated as twenty-eighth Wrangler and seventeenth in the second class of the Classical Tripos. He went from Eton to King's, as Eton Scholar, in 1862. In 1864 he took Sir William Brown's medal for Latin epigrams. The "Dead March" was performed in King's College Chapel, at the afternoon service, on Sunday, by order of the Vice-Provost.

THE STRAND UNION WORKHOUSE.—On Tuesday evening, at the weekly meeting of the Strand guardians, at which the newly-appointed Metropolitan Poor-Law Inspectors, Dr. Markham and Mr. Corbett, were present, Mr. J. S. Storr brought forward the question of the sick nursing in the workhouse. He stated that an offer had been made by ladies of the Church of England connected with All Saints' Home, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square—of which institution the Bishop of London was president, and which Dean Stanley warmly approved—to undertake the nursing of the sick in the workhouse without expense to the guardians. He read correspondence from Chorlton, in Lancashire, describing how these devoted ladies had, at the risk of life or health, undertaken the charge of fever-wards in that union workhouse at a time when a panic had seized the other nurses; and he urged the importance of having ladies who were actuated by no feeling but a Christian spirit in such a place as a workhouse, where they would be distinct from the pauper assistants and the paid officials, and would be constant examples of duty, being performed for its own sake and in the holy name of religion. He said all inspections of London workhouses as they had been conducted were worthless, as the one inspector to more than forty houses, with other duties to do, could not properly inspect these places, and the guardians did not do so either. He moved that inquiry be made into the working of this system of nursing with a view to its adoption at the Strand Union Workhouse. Mr. Hedgcock seconded the motion, and Mr. Corbett bore testimony to the great service these ladies rendered to the sick and the guardians at Chorlton. After a discussion, in which the proposed system was bitterly denounced on religious points, an amendment was moved that the subject be deferred for six months, which was supported by all who had opposed the proposition, and was carried by a large majority.

BARNET FAIR.—Tuesday was the opening of this three days' fair; but, in pursuance of orders of Her Majesty's Privy Council, all traffic of horned cattle was suppressed by magistrates through whose districts stock would have to pass en route to this fair, and the large pasture-fields at Barnet were this year entirely without horned stock. The horse show was extensive, and comprised a miscellaneous description of useful cattle. The Welsh pony droves were, as usual, large; and some herds of well-bred Irish colts were exhibited. The sheep fair was larger than usual, and the flocks were in a healthy condition. An advance was obtained for store and stock sheep, which sold as follows:—Two-tooth wethers, 50s. to 53s. a head; strong store lambs (cross bred), 34s. to 36s.; and Down ditto, 38s. to 42s. per ditto; young ewes for stock, 50s. to 55s. a head; and broken-mouthed ewes, to 37s. 43s. per ditto; large store wethers, 60s. to 65s. a head; Scotch sheep Cheviot ewes, 32s. to 36s.; and Ditto lambs, 24s. to 30s. a head; cross-bred rams, 2 to 3 guineas; and long-wool tupes (Leicester), 4 to 5 guineas each; and ram lambs, 2 guineas. In the horse fair business continued active, and many horses were sold at the following prices:—Cart-horses, sound and active, and adapted for London brewers, merchants, &c., 50 to 60 guineas; and seasoned horses for road teams, 25 to 40 guineas; and young, active horses, for town carts, vans, and railway carriers were in active demand, at from 40 to 50 guineas; and horses for omnibuses, cabs, and hackney work, 28 to 40 guineas; cur-coits, 25 to 38 guineas; and nag-coits, 20 to 40 guineas; handsome, grown young horses for broughams and single and double harness, 60 to 75 guineas; well-bred horses for saddle purposes, 40 to 55 guineas; and ditto of high blood, suitable for the hunting-field, 75 to 90 guineas; steady cobs, 18 to 28 guineas; and good harness ponies, 10 to 15 guineas. Aged and stale horses made low prices. There were several fine herds of very promising unbroken Irish-bred colts, which found buyers at 11 to 25 guineas, and choice selections realised 35 guineas. Among the large droves of Welsh forest ponies there was a lively business, and unbroken two-year-old ponies made 8 to 10 guineas; and yearling colts, 3 to 4 guineas; and Welsh cobs, 11 to 15 guineas. The horse races took place in the fair-fields on Thursday afternoon.

THE LONDON GAZETTE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31.

THE LONDON GAZETTE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31.

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 and BACK EVERY SUNDAY for 3s. from London Bridge, Victoria, and Kensington, at 9.0 a.m. The Kensington Train calls at Chelsea at 9.4 a.m.; Clapham Junction, 9.10 a.m.; Crystal Palace, 9.28 a.m.; Norwood Junction, 9.34 a.m.; and Croydon, at 9.40 a.m., where Excursion Tickets are issued. Trains return from Brighton for Victoria at 2.10 p.m.; for Kensington at 7.10 p.m. (calling at East Croydon, Norwood Junction, Crystal Palace, Clapham Junction, and Chelsea); and for London Bridge at 7.30 p.m.
FARES THERE AND BACK—1st Class, 9s.; 2nd Class, 6s.; 3rd Class, 3s.
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 The Victoria Train will leave Hastings on the Return Journey at 6.30 p.m.; St. Leonards, 6.42 p.m.; Eastbourne, 6.55 p.m.; Polegate, 7.10 p.m.; and Lewes at 7.37 p.m.; and the Return Train for London Bridge will leave Hastings at 6.10 p.m.; St. Leonards, 6.18 p.m.; Eastbourne, 6.25 p.m.; Polegate, 6.47; and Lewes at 7.12 p.m.
FARES THERE AND BACK, to ALL STATIONS
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PORTSMOUTH, HAVANT, CHICHESTER, BOGNOR, LITTLEHAMPTON, and ARUNDEL EVERY SUNDAY—Trains from Victoria at 7.55 a.m., London Bridge at 8.10 a.m., calling at Croydon at 8.33 a.m.
 The Victoria Train will leave Portsmouth on the Return Journey at 6.30 p.m.; Havant at 7.6 p.m.; Chichester at 7.23 p.m.; Bognor at 7.53 p.m.; Littlehampton at 7.15 p.m.; Arundel at 7.33 p.m. And the Return Train for London Bridge will leave Portsmouth at 7.10 p.m.; Havant at 7.36 p.m.; Chichester at 7.43 p.m.; Bognor at 7.40 p.m.; Littlehampton at 7.15 p.m.; and Arundel at 8.13 p.m.
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A MOTT'S CHEAP SILKS. Rich Black Glacé, 14 guineas 15 yards.
 Black Gros Grain Silks, worth 3s. 9d., for 2s. 11d.
 Rich Black Corded Silks, worth 34 guineas, now selling at 22 1/2s. 6d. for 15 yards.
 Several Hundred Single Dress Lengths, 1 to 2 guineas; worth double.
 PATTERNS POST-FREE.
 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

FIRST-CLASS CARPETS. Lowest prices. Price-list post-free.
 Patterns can be forwarded into the Country free.
 T. VENABLE and SONS, London, E.

FIRST-CLASS SILKS. Lowest prices. Write for Patterns, post-free.
 Shawls, Mantles, Baby-linen, &c.
 T. VENABLE and SONS, London, E.

FIRST-CLASS DRAPERY. Lowest prices. Write for Patterns, post-free.
 Established nearly half a century.
 T. VENABLE and SONS, London, E.

FIRST-CLASS MOURNING. Lowest prices. Write for Patterns, post-free.
 Carriage-free to any part of the kingdom.
 T. VENABLE and SONS, London, E.

FIRST-CLASS IRON BEDSTEADS, &c. Price-list post-free.
 T. VENABLE and SONS, 103, 104, 105, Whitechapel; and 2, 4, 6, 8, Commercial-street, London.

NICHOLSON'S NEW SILKS. Coloured Glacés, 30 shades, from 1s. 4d. per yard. 150 Patterns post-free. At Nicholson's, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

NICHOLSON'S NEW SILKS. Checks and Stripes, from 1 guinea a Dress. Reversible, 100 Patterns post-free. At Nicholson's, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

NICHOLSON'S NEW SILKS. Moire Antiques, Corded Silks, Chéné and Broché Silks, from 2 guineas 500 Patterns free. At Nicholson's 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

NICHOLSON'S BLACK SILKS. Black Glacé, Gros Grain, Drap de Lyon, Drap de Paris, &c., from 1 guinea a Dress. 300 Patterns post-free. Nicholson's, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT SALE.—D. B. JOHNSTONE and CO., of 109 to 112, Edgware-road, having purchased the STOCK of Mr. Edward Lewis, Hoiler, Glover, &c., of 84, Lombard-street, City, whose premises are disposed of to the Globe Insurance Company, at the Large Discount of 52 1/2 per cent off the Cost or Manufacturer's prices for Cash, will SELL IT OFF on their own Premises on MONDAY NEXT, and following Days. The Stock consists of valuable First-Class Gloves and Hosiery; and at the same time will be offered a Manufacturer's Stock of Rich Cloth, Silk and Lace Mantles and Jackets, Made-up Dresses and Petticoats; also, an immense variety of Garbaldies at less than half the usual prices.
 The Edgware-road Station on the Metropolitan Railway is within a few yards of D. B. Johnstone and Co.'s premises; also within five minutes' walk of the Great Western Railway.
 Doors open at Ten, close at Eight; close on Saturdays at Two.

CALICOES, Flannels, Blankets, Sheetings, and Fancy Dresses, Considerably under present prices, This Day.
 T. SIMPSON and COMPANY, Silk Mercers and General Drapers, 48, 49, 50, and 51, Farringdon-street, City.

BREAKFAST.—EPPE'S COCOA (more commonly called Eppe's Homoeopathic Cocoa, as being prepared and introduced by Jas. Eppe, the Homoeopathic Chemist first established in England). The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. For breakfast, no other beverage is equally invigorating and sustaining.

CHOCOLAT-MENIER, for Breakfast.

CHOCOLAT-MENIER, for Eating.

CHOCOLAT-MENIER. Pure, wholesome, and delicious. Consumption exceeds 5,000,000 lb.

MENIER'S FRENCH CHOCOLATE Warehouse, 23, Henrietta-st., Strand, London. Sold every where.

EXCELLENT QUALITY OF CHOCOLATE. The Dublin Medal was obtained by J. S. FRY and SONS for "Excellent Quality of Chocolate," the Jury adding, "The Chocolate of Messrs. Fry and Sons is a very pure substance."

J. S. Fry and Sons, Bristol and London. Makers to the Queen and Prince of Wales.
FRY'S CHOCOLATE CREAMS are an exceedingly delicious Sweetmeat, rapidly increasing in public favour.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY. The Annual Meeting was held on Friday, the 10th inst., Charles Turner, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

The following is an epitome of the Report:—
FIRE BRANCH.
 "The progress of the Company, as respects the amount of business effected, has been satisfactory, the returns of duty published by Parliament, on the month of the Chairman of this Company, exhibiting by far the largest measure of increase which the Company has ever experienced."
 "The total net amount of Fire premium for the year, after deducting guarantee, is £147,733 13s."

LIFE BRANCH.
 "Turning now to the Life Branch, it remains to be reported that the progress has been marked by unchecked success. This will be made clear by one or two statistical exhibitions."
 "Taking the four previous quinquennial periods, it is found that the first, from 1845 to 1849 inclusive, commenced with a sum assured for—
 Year 1845 of .. £23,349 .. and ended the period with a total sum assured of £274,736

The Second, 1850-54 .. 95,650 .. do. .. 733,408
 Do. 1855 .. 106,514 .. do. .. 1,655,678
 The Third, 1856-60 .. 449,242 .. do. .. 3,430,915
 Do. 1861 .. 449,242 .. do. .. 3,430,915

And now the first year of the fifth life period—viz., 1865—the Company has granted assurances for £286,663, nearly twice the amount at the commencement of the last quinquennial period.
 "If, therefore, the result of the total five years, ending in the year 1869, were to have a corresponding increase with the previous periods of five years each, the amount of business that would be effected in the quinquennial period now running would be more than has ever been on record in any insurance establishment in this country."

"The Directors have likewise to report that the Life Funds have increased by the sum of £103,146, the accumulated funds of this department now amounting to £740,458. As an addition of, at least, £100,000 per annum to these accumulations during the next ten years may now be fairly anticipated, it is within reasonable expectation that during this period the Life Funds will approach nearly to £2,000,000 sterling."

"The Directors propose to the Proprietors that a dividend be declared of 3s. per Share and a bonus of 4s. per Share, together 7s. per Share, free of income tax.
 "It is a matter of satisfaction to state that, after withdrawing the amount of this dividend and bonus from the profit and loss account, a credit balance will still remain to that account of no less than £62,076 9s., in addition to the reserve fund, which, by the augmentation of the year now reaches the sum of £116,913 2s. 10d."

This Report was unanimously adopted.
 FERCY M. DOVE, Manager and Actuary.
 JOHN R. JOHNSTON, Secretary in London.

£250,000 HAVE BEEN PAID as COMPENSATION for ACCIDENTS of ALL KINDS, by the RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY. An Annual Payment of £25 to 26s. 6d. secures £1000 in Case of Death, or £5 per Week while laid up by Injury.
 Offices: 64, Cornhill, and 10, Regent-street.
 WILLIAM J. VIAN, Sec.

BENSON, J. W., by Special Appointment to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

BENSON'S WATCHES. Prize Medal, 1865.

BENSON'S WATCHES, sent safe by post.

BENSON'S CLOCKS, manufactured by Steam-power.

BENSON'S SILVER and ELECTRO-PLATE. Prize Medals, 1862.

BENSON'S GOLD JEWELLERY, Novel and Artistic.

BENSON'S Illustrated Pamphlet. 2d.

BENSON, Old Bond-street and Westbourne-grove.

BENSON'S Steam Factory and City Show-rooms, 55 and 60, Ludgate-hill.

E. DENT and CO., WATCH, CLOCK, and CHRONOMETER MAKERS REI. MAJESTY H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, and H.M. the EMPEROR of RUSSIA, and Makers of the Great Clock for the House of Parliament, 61, Strand, W.C., and 34 and 35, Royal Exchange, E.C.

Gold Lever Watches, from 16 to 30 Guineas
 Gold Half Chronometers, winding with or without a key, from 35 Guineas
 Gold Hunting, case extra 5 Guineas
 Gold Geneva Watches, examined and guaranteed, from 7 to 20 Guineas
 Gold Chains, quality 16 Guineas
 18 carats fine, from 5 to 25 Guineas
 An elegant Assortment of Drawing-room Clocks of the newest Designs.

Astronomical, Turret, and other Clocks made to order.
 E. Dent and Co., 61, Strand, W.C. (adjoining Coutts' Bank), and 34 and 35, Royal Exchange, E.C.

SLACKS' SILVER ELECTRO-PLATE is as good for wear as real silver.
 Table Forks (Fiddle Pattern—Per doz.) 21 10 0 and 18 0
 Dessert ditto 1 0 0 .. 1 10 0
 Table Spoons 1 10 0 .. 1 18 0
 Dessert ditto 0 12 6 .. 0 18 0
 Tea Spoons 0 12 6 .. 0 18 0
 Richard and John Slack, 336, Strand, London.

GABDNER'S LAMPS. GARDNER'S CHANDELIERS. GARDNER'S DINNERS SERVICES. GARDNER'S DRAWING-ROOM CLOCKS. GARDNER'S TABLE GLASS. GARDNER'S PLATED GOODS.

GABDNER'S, 453 and 454, STRAND, Four Doors from Trafalgar-square. Illustrated Catalogue post-free.